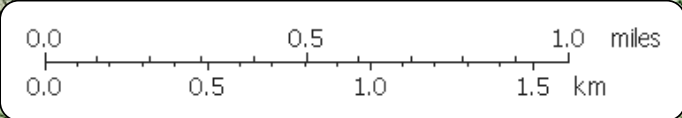


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## Halfmoon Mountain - Wardensville, West Virginia

Length	Difficulty	Streams	Views	Solitude	Camping
10.6 mls	4	4	5	3	4
<b>Hiking Time:</b> 2 Day backpack or 6 hours total <b>Elev. Gain:</b> 2,120 ft <b>Parking:</b> Turn onto the gravel road off Trout Run Road and park at the top of the loop. 39.01431, -78.66388					



[Click Here For Detailed Location](#)

Halfmoon Mountain has spectacular views of Trout Run Valley, Big Schloss and Tibbet Knob, as well as a great campsites at the summit of Halfmoon Mountain and along Halfmoon Run. Although this hike has become more popular in recent years, there are still hidden gems to be had. Most hikers will take in the panoramic views from the fire tower then head back down, but go a little further past the campsite in the saddle and in 75 yards is a view equal to the first with a larger rock outcrop. Camp at the saddle and it's likely to be all yours for the sunset.

There are two options for enjoying the fantastic views and camping on Halfmoon Mountain:

- Follow our directions for the two day 10.5 mile backpack or as a long day hike.
- Don't have time for the standard route? Park at the Halfmoon Mountain trailhead off VA23/10 Trout Run Road 38.98936, -78.65707. This will make for a shorter 6.5 mile hike up the Halfmoon Mountain Trail to the ridge and intersection of the Halfmoon Mountain Overlook Trail, then to the overlook, and back down the same way.
  - ▶ **Mile 0.0** - From the parking area pass the gate and kiosk on the wide orange blazed Bucktail Trail. In 0.2 miles arrive at the intersection of the pink blazed Bucktail Cutoff Trail on the right.
  - ▶ **Mile 0.2** - Continue along the orange Bucktail Trail as it starts to winds around the mountain and gradually ascends to a saddle with intermittent views of the ridge to the west. After the saddle descend towards the run arriving at a footbridge and intersection with the Cacpon Trail.
  - ▶ **Mile 2.5** - Do Not cross the footbridge, but say right upstream on the orange blazed Bucktail Trail. The Bucktail Trail will cross the stream five times in the next 0.8 miles.  
***Note:** This is the last water source until Halfmoon Run on the opposite side of the mountain. If you are camping at one of the summit or the saddle campsites make sure to fill up with water here.*  
 After the last run crossing the trail passes through an area of Mountain Laurel then ends at a closed gate and intersection with the Old Mine Trail and German Wilson Trail.
  - ▶ **Mile 4.0** - Turn right on the wide purple blazed German Wilson Trail passing another closed gate where the trail follows an old forestry road. In 0.1 miles there is a side trail on the left. Stay on the wide forestry road and German Wilson Trail, then in another 0.2 miles the German Wilson Trail will leave the forestry road and turn left uphill.
  - ▶ **Mile 4.3** - Turn left uphill on the now narrower purple blazed German Wilson Trail. The trail is 1.0 miles long and becomes increasingly steeper passing through a small gorge before cresting the saddle and ending at the intersection with the white blazed Halfmoon Mountain Overlook Trail.
  - ▶ **Mile 5.3** - Turn right on the white blazed trail towards the Halfmoon Mountain Summit. In 0.4 miles there is a side trail on the left that leads down to a large campsite. The white blazed trail will turn sharply right to the summit of Halfmoon Mountain main overlook and ruins of an old fire tower.
  - ▶ **Mile 5.7** - From the main summit continue to the saddle campsite just beyond, then follow the faint trail another 75 yards to the less know northwesterly vista point with expansive views and large rock outcropping.
  - ▶ **Mile 5.8** - From the second overlook pass back through the campsite in the saddle and down the white blazed trail back to the intersection with the German Wilson Trail. From the German Wilson Trail intersection it is 0.4 miles to the intersection with the yellow blazed Halfmoon Mountain Trail. 30 yards before arriving at the intersection there is a large campsite on the left.
  - ▶ **Mile 6.2** - Turn right downhill on the yellow blazed Halfmoon Mountain Trail. There is one large switchback on its descent to a large campsite and intersection with the pink blazed Bucktail Cutoff Trail. There are additional campsites just upstream, and the Halfmoon Mountain Trail veers left here crossing Halfmoon Mountain Run then following a forestry road.
  - ▶ **Mile 7.4** - Stay straight on the pink blazed Bucktail Cutoff Trail following a forestry road. The trail will pass 5 major gullies that can be a workout as it makes its way to the orange blazed Bucktail Trail where the pink trail ends.
  - ▶ **Mile 10.4** - Stay left on the wider orange blazed Bucktail Trail for 0.2 miles back to the trailhead and parking area.
  - ▶ **Mile 10.6** - Arrive back at the parking area.