



Hunchback Mountain - Mt Hood ZigZag, OR

Length	Difficulty	Streams	Views	Solitude	Camping
10.9 mls	★	N/A	★	★	N/A
Hiking Time:	7.5 hours with a half hour for lunch				
Elev. Gain:	4,220 ft				
Links:	Zigzag, Turn right into the Zigzag Ranger Station, Large parking lot and trail head is on the left.				

For deep valleys, great mountains and tall timber it's hard to beat the pacific northwest. Hunchback Mountain is one of the steeper of the Oregon hikes especially as it edges along the knife ridge line for which it is named.

We were lucky and had a spectacular day of weather with the visibility over 20 miles. On the ridge portion of the hike as we neared our vertically highest point we were rewarded with a spectacular panoramic view towards the southwest.

At the furthest point in the hike (this is an out and back hike) there is a small clearing where Mt. Hood peeked through its lower cloud layers. I think with about another 20 minutes it might have cleared up a little more and we would have gotten a great view of the whole mountain.

This hike will really test your fitness. At over 4,000ft and 10+ miles by the time you get back to the parking area you know you've accomplished something. What's great about this route, besides from the spectacular views, is that if you get too tired or start running out of time it's easy to just turn around and call it a day.

Directions for this hike are very simple. Just stay on the trail as it steeply zigzags the mountain before reaching the ridge line in 1.5 miles. At that point continue following the ridge as it undulates and continually ascends Hunchback Mountain before reaching the high point at 4,011 feet 4.5 miles from when you reached the ridge. To return just retrace your route.