



Long Mountain Ridge - Wardensville, West Virginia

Length	Difficulty	Streams	Views	Solitude	Camping
6.3 mls	4	1	5	5	2
Hiking Time:	4.0 hours with a half hour for lunch				
Elev. Gain:	1,480 ft				

The Long Mountain Ridge hike passes through the popular Trout Pond area. The hike up the unblazed forestry fire road, that heads very steeply up to Long Mountain Ridge, is one of the toughest climbs in the area, but the spectacular views from the ridge are almost guaranteed to be yours for the day.

Important Bushwhacking Notes:

- Only experienced hikers who are comfortable hiking off-trail, using a compass, map, and GPS should do this hike.
- Sections of the bushwhack have heavy, thorny undergrowth. Wear long pants, or you will feel like you've invited the neighborhood cats over to use your legs as a scratching post by the end of the day.
- Long Mountain has loose rock covered by a thin layer of leaves making it easy to twist an ankle. Use a hiking stick or poles, and good quality hiking boots for support.
- Timber Rattlesnakes are extremely hard to detect in the underbrush. Take extreme care.
- Don't hike this alone. Let someone know where you are hiking, and when you expect to return. If you twist an ankle, or worse, you're on your own out here.

From the parking area on FDR691, start downhill on the yellow blazed Long Mountain Trail. In 0.1 miles pass a clearing on the right, then in another 0.5 miles pass a second clearing. You will exit the loop through this clearing on the way back.

Continue downhill more steeply on the yellow blazed trail as it winds down the west side of Long Mountain. As the trail begins to level out in 1.6 miles from the last wildlife clearing, reach the intersection of the purple blazed Trout Pond Trail. Stay straight on the yellow blazed Long Mountain Trail for another 0.5 miles crossing a small stream, then arrive at another clearing.

At the clearing, turn right uphill on a narrow unblazed/unmaintained forestry fire road. The forestry fire road is marked on the map here as light red. In 0.2 miles the fire road passes through the left side of the rocky creek bed, and in another 0.1 miles it becomes very steep heading directly for ridge. 1.0 miles from the Long Mountain Trail, the fire road will arrive at the ridge and large clearing, with fantastic views of Mill Mountain and Big Schloss across the valley.

The next 1.7 miles is a bushwhack along the Long Mountain Ridge marked on the map here as light red dashed. Turn right/south staying on the ridge for the next 0.3 miles. Pass around the right/west side of the Long Mountain summit, where the bushwhacking will become considerably harder, before reestablishing the ridge on the other side. Bushwhack along the ridge for the next 1.0 miles. Descend 0.2 miles to the clearing in the saddle of the ridge, passing through a thicket of Mountain Laurel.

Exit the clearing on the right bottom corner, then turn left uphill on the yellow blazed Long Mountain Ridge trail you descended earlier, and in 0.6 miles arrive back at the parking area.