

Hike The Alleghenies Trough Creek State Park Brumbaugh – Boulder Loop

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Brumbaugh – Boulder Loop (6.4 Miles)

The hike starts on the blue blazed Ledges Trail, which has panoramic views of the Great Trough Creek gorge from several lookouts. Ledges Trail passes ruins of the old Paradise Furnace schoolhouse. Paradise Furnace, which produced 12 tons of cast iron a day, was constructed in 1827.

The hike takes you to a geologic wonder named Balanced Rock. Balanced Rock appears to be perched on the edge of a cliff, ready to fall off at any moment into Great Trough Creek far below. This “erosion remnant” has hung here for thousands of years. Once part of a higher cliff, the hard rock of Balanced Rock was sitting on a layer of soft rock. The soft rock on the cliff face eroded first, easing Balanced Rock into its angled perch hanging over the valley. Eventually the soft rock around Balanced Rock eroded away, leaving the rock balanced on the edge of the cliff.

Raven Rock is the cliff site that local legend says was a favorite nesting site for ravens. It is reputed that Edgar Allen Poe visited and later wrote the poem “The Raven” after seeing the ravens that nested on the cliffs.

You will be near the Ice Mine interpretive wayside at mile 3.8. Ice Mine was probably a prospect hole for early iron miners. They did not discover iron ore, but did create a natural refrigerator. In the winter, cold air diffuses up into the loose rock of the hillside. In the spring and summer, cold air flows down the mountainside and into the Ice Mine. This causes melting snow water to refreeze when it hits the cold air in the mine. Humid summer air adds more ice until all of the cold air has left the hillside, usually by late summer.

Copperas Rocks is named for the coppery-yellow stain on the cliff surface. The crystalline, yellow precipitate is ferrous sulfate that leaches from a small pocket of coal. Although this substance is one of the main pollutants in abandoned mine drainage, the small quantity here is not harmful to the stream. The small cave at the bottom of the cliff was probably made by early settlers who used ferrous sulfate as a mordant for setting the dye color in cloth.

Parking: *Lat 40 18 50 Lon 78 07 53*

From US Rt. 30 near Everett, take PA Rt. 26 North 29 miles and turn right onto PA Rt. 994 East. (From US Rt. 22 near Huntingdon, take PA Rt. 26 South 16 miles and turn left onto PA Rt. 994 East). Take PA Rt. 994 East 5.2 miles and turn left onto Hill Farm Rd (SR3031). Proceed 1.7 miles and turn left onto Trough Creek Drive. Go .2 miles (pass the park office) and park on the right across from the Ledges Trail trailhead.

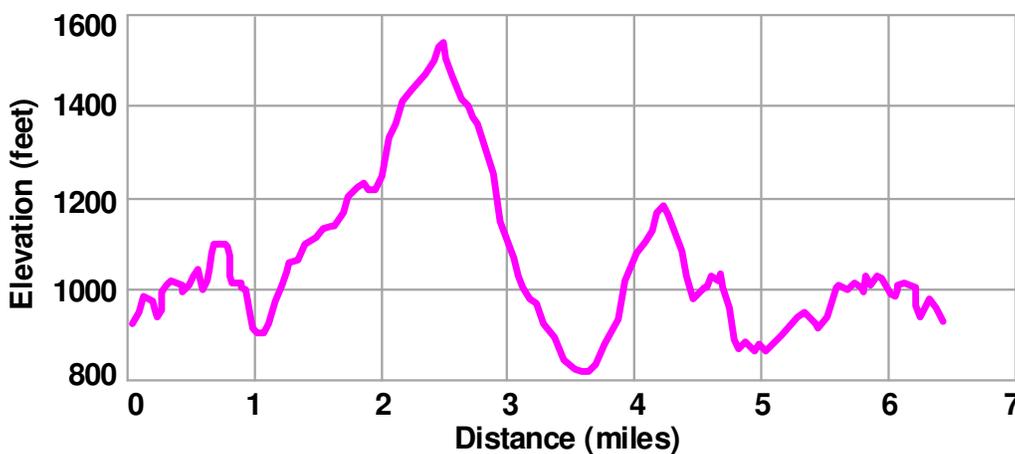
Trail Directions: From parking area take Ledges Trail .9 miles and Turn Right onto Abbot Run Trail. Go .1 miles to Balanced Rock Interpretive area. From near Balanced Rock, you can take a short optional out and back spur down stone steps to Rainbow Falls. Continue past Balanced Rock on Raven Rock Trail .1 miles and

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Turn Left onto Brumbaugh Trail. Go 2.3 miles and Turn Right onto Terrace Mtn Trail. Go .4 miles and Turn Right onto Boulder Trail near the Ice Mine interpretive wayside. Go 1.1 miles (crossing Trough Creek Drive) to suspension bridge and Turn Left onto Rhododendron Trail. Go .6 miles and Turn Right onto Copperas Rock Trail (before turning onto Copperas Rock Trail, you can take a .2 mile out and back spur to Copperas Rocks). Go .4 miles and Turn Left onto Ledges trail backtracking .6 miles back to parking area.

<u>Distance:</u>	6.4 miles
<u>Time:</u>	4-5 hours
<u>Elevation Change:</u>	747 feet
<u>Trail Loop Difficulty Rating:</u>	 Challenging terrain OR varying elevation



Amenities and more miles of trail are available in Trough Creek State Park, Rothrock State Forest and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Raystown Lake Project's 22-mile Terrace Mountain Trail. See these websites for details (including physical accessibility):

www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/troughcreek.aspx

www.dcnr.state.pa.us/Forestry/stateforests/rothrock.aspx

<http://raystown.nab.usace.army.mil/Activities/hiking.htm>