

Hike The Alleghenies

Greenwood Furnace State Park / Rothrock State Forest

Ore Banks Loop

Page 1 of 2

Ore Banks Loop (6 miles)



This loop takes hikers to the Brush Ridge Ore Banks, one of the lesser-known historic areas of Greenwood Furnace. The loop begins with Chestnut Spring (yellow blazes) and Brush Ridge (red blazes) trails, offering a ridge-top perspective of the surrounding forest. Remains of the Brush Ridge Ore Banks used during the 19th century iron making days are visible. Near the highway, turn left onto Tramway Trail, which was a mule-drawn railroad that hauled iron ore from these banks to the furnace. Wildlife is abundant in the area. The alert observer may see white-tailed deer, black bear, wild turkey, ruffed grouse and many species of small game. Duck, great blue heron and occasionally osprey visit Greenwood Lake. During early evening hours in late May and June, whip-poor-will sing their unique call.

Parking: *Lat 40 39 08 Lon 77 45 16*

There is plenty of parking at the park office / visitor center. The entrance to the park is on PA Rt. 305, a 10-minute drive west of Belleville, PA or a 35-minute drive southeast of State College, PA. Heading east on PA Rt. 305, turn left into the park onto Broad Mountain Road. The park office / visitor center will be immediately on your left.

Trail Directions: From the park office / visitor center, hike north on the paved path parallel to Broad Mountain Road (moving away from PA Rt. 305) and stay on the trail crossing a pedestrian bridge. Immediately after the bridge, Turn Right and then an immediate Left onto Broad Mountain Road. Continue on Broad Mountain Road until you see the Chestnut Spring Trail sign (Yellow Blaze) next to a park maintenance building. Follow the trail for .4 miles, again crossing Broad Mountain Road and Turn Right just past a small pedestrian bridge at a sign post marked "Brush Ridge" (red blaze) Go .1 miles until you see a sign "Ore Bank Loop 6 miles – follow Brush Ridge Trail 2.5 Miles." Continue to follow red blazed trail .1 miles and Turn Left at Brush Ridge Trail. Follow the red blazed Brush Ridge Trail 2.1 miles and Turn Left onto Dixon Trail. Go .3 miles and Turn Left onto Tramway Trail. Go 1.9 miles and cross Pa. Rt. 305 staying on Tramway Trail. Go .6 miles to pavilion #6 and cross Pa. Rt. 305 to the beach lifeguard area. Turn Right and take the trail along Pa. Rt. 305 .3 miles back to the visitor center.

Distance:

6 miles

Time:

3-3.5 hours

Elevation Change:

264 feet

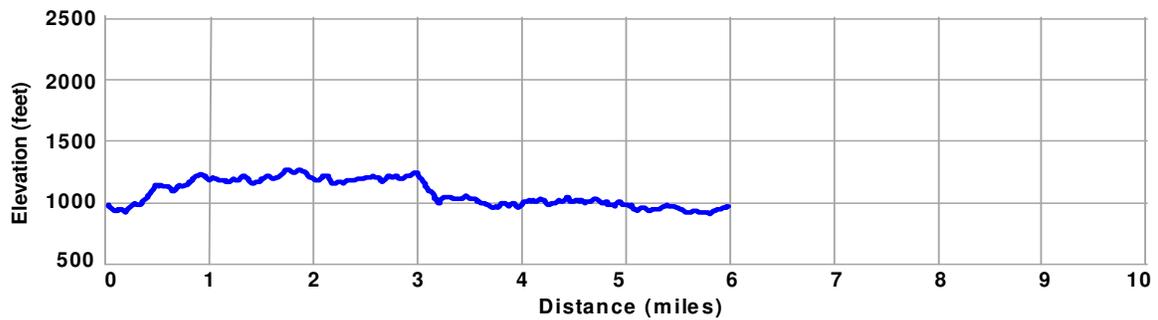
Trail Loop Difficulty Rating:



Moderate terrain with some elevation gain.

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Page 2 of 2



Amenities and more miles of trail are available in Greenwood Furnace State Park and adjacent Rothrock State Forest. See these websites for details (including physical accessibility).

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

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

More information on the Link Trail, including history, updates, events and tours are available from:

www.geocities.com/linktrail