

## Bearfence Rock Scramble Hike

🔄 1.4-mile circuit

🕒 1-hour hiking time

⚠️ Moderate

⬆️ 311-foot elevation gain

This hike includes a rock scramble to a 360 degree view. (If you have a fear of heights, it's not for you. And if it's wet or icy, it's not safe!) To begin from the parking lot, cross Skyline Drive and climb the stairs up the bank. At the trail post, continue straight ahead on Bearfence Loop Trail. After the rock scramble, turn right onto the connector trail and then go right on the Appalachian Trail north. At the intersection, turn left and return to the parking lot.

## Bearfence Viewpoint Hike

🔄 1.1-mile round trip

🕒 .75-hour hiking time

⚠️ Easiest

⬆️ 305-foot elevation gain

This route takes you to a viewpoint without the rock scramble. To begin from the parking lot, cross Skyline Drive and climb the stairs up the bank. At the trail post, turn right onto the Appalachian Trail south. Go left on the connector trail, then right onto Bearfence Loop Trail. You'll see the viewpoint on your right. Retrace your steps to your starting point.

## Hiking Difficulty Scale

**Easiest:** Generally suitable for anyone who enjoys walking. Mostly level or with a slight incline. Generally less than 3 miles.

**Moderate:** Generally suitable for novice hikers seeking a bit of a challenge. The terrain will involve a moderate incline and may have some steeper sections. Generally 3 to 5 miles.

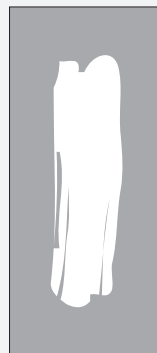
**Moderately Strenuous:** Generally challenging for an unconditioned person. The terrain will involve a steady and often steep incline. Generally 5 to 8 miles.

**Strenuous:** Will challenge most hikers. The hike will generally be longer and steeper, but may be deemed strenuous because of the elevation gain. Generally 7 to 10 miles.

**Very Strenuous:** Only well-conditioned and well-prepared hikers should attempt. Generally long and steep, and may include rock scrambling, stream crossings, and other challenging terrain. Generally 8 miles and over.

## Markers & Blazes

**Trail markers** are at trailheads and intersections. The metal bands are stamped with directional and mileage information.



**Trail blazes** are found on trees and rocks throughout the Park. The color identifies the trail type:

**Blue** - Hiking trail

**White** - Appalachian Trail

**Yellow** - Open to horses



## Need to Know

- Pets are not allowed on Bearfence Loop Trail.
- Bearfence Rock Scramble may not be suitable for those with a fear of heights.
- Do not attempt the rock scramble in wet or icy conditions.
- Please stay on the trail and avoid trampling sensitive vegetation.
- Be sure you are physically able to complete the hike you've chosen.
- Take plenty of water—at least a quart per hour.
- When you return from your hike, check for ticks.
- Be sure someone knows where you are and when to expect your return.

## Good to Know

The rocky terrain around Bearfence makes for a fun hike with plenty of climbing and a great view for your efforts. Blue blazes will guide you along the best route to navigate this tricky hike. But the recommended route is not just for your safety, it's also critical to the plants that grow here. The fungus and lichens that grow on these rocks, as well as the mosses, saxifrage, and stonecrop that somehow take root in and between the rocks are important members of the ecosystem. You can help protect them by staying on the recommended route and by paying attention to what's underfoot! Please tread lightly as you enjoy Bearfence!

## Leave No Trace

- Plan ahead and prepare.
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
- Dispose of waste properly.
- Leave what you find.
- Respect wildlife.
- Be considerate of other visitors