

Chimney Rocks - Paint Mountain Loop

A Strenuous 6.4 Mile Loop on a Multi Purpose Trail

Elevation Gain 1250 Feet - Very Good Footpath - No Creek Crossings

A steep climb to an outstanding vista of Weaver's Bend and the French Broad Watershed; followed by a pleasant walk through the woods and an easy walk along a road back to the vehicle to complete the loop.

Hiked June 29, 2009

Copyright 2009 Ned Sanders. Information may be used by permission only.

Directions to Trailhead: Leave Greeneville on Highway 70, locally known as the Asheville Highway. Set your trip counter at the last traffic light with Food City on the left and McDonalds on the right. Drive past the Nolichucky River and the dam for 8.5 miles and turn right on Highway 107 which goes through Houston Valley. After a total of 17.2 miles turn left on Brush Creek Road just past the Cocke County Line. Turn left again at mile 19.0 and enter Weaver's Bend. Continue on this dirt road until you reach mile 20.9, and park just before crossing the railroad tracks. You will see a sign indicating the trailhead to Chimney Rocks.



The trail to Chimney Rocks starts on an old road and enters a large field after a short climb. Continue straight ahead on the road for a half mile until a small trail sign is reached where an old road comes in from the left. Continue

straight ahead and climb steeply up a ridge. The climbing will become slightly less strenuous as a series of switchback is covered. This area was very overgrown at the time of this hike but not a big problem.

After climbing a little over two miles, the Chimney Rocks Trail will intersect with the trail to Paint Rock which comes in from the right. This is the best place to check out the fantastic views of the French Broad River as it winds its way through Weaver's Bend. Although this vista a great any time of year it is especially scenic during the winter months when the foliage is absent from the trees. This viewpoint is also a great place for a lunch or snack break.

After your stop, continue on the Chimney Rocks Trail by taking the left fork and hike across the ridgeline for another half mile until the trail deadends into the Paint Mountain Trail. Paint Mountain is an eight and a half mile trail that runs from the campground at Paint Creek, crosses Lone Pine Gap, and ends in Weaver's Bend.

To continue on this loop, you will take the left fork which winds its way across the side of the mountain, then descends to the Weaver's Bend road through a series of seemingly endless switchbacks. If you are looking carefully, you will see a small graveyard. After covering a total of 5.5 miles, you will hit the Weaver's Bend Road and Trailhead for the Paint Mountain Trail. There are two trail variations which have been built to the road but if you turn left on the road and head back to your vehicle at either one you will be correct. The distance you will walk on the road is about one mile. Optionally, this trail can be hiked either way and by arranging a shuttle at each trailhead, the walk along the road can be omitting saving about a mile.

SYNOPSIS OF HIKE

Mile	Elevation	Description
0	1293	Trailhead for Chimney Rocks.
.052	1498	Old Trail Sign. Old road comes in from left.
2.15	2412	JCT Paint Rocks Trail. Vista for Weaver's Bend.
2.60	2539	JCT with Paint Mountain Trail.
5.41	1289	Trailhead for Paint Mountain Trail.
6.40	1293	Return to Chimney Rocks Trailhead.

