

Trail Notes and Directions for North Fork Mt Shuttle Hike:

Description: This is a moderate 9.6 mile shuttle hike. If you like majestic views this is your hike. There are at least 10 outstanding overlooks in this section of the North Fork Mt. Trail. I approximate 10 because there are several other spots where a quick bushwhack to the ridge will bring you to even more breath-taking views.

Directions from WV55/Rt28, south of Cabins, WV:

1. If you are driving south on WV55/ Rt28 turn left onto CR28, Smoke Hole Canyon Rd. If you are heading north turn right.
2. As the road bears right, away from the river, look for a parking area on the right (room for 6 cars). Leave ½ of your vehicles here.
3. Continue south on CR28 for approximately 6.7 miles. There will be a gated gravel road to the right marked "214" with a Forest Kiosk w/map and room for several vehicles to park. This is the beginning of Redman Run Trail.

Trail Notes: All trails are blazed with blue plastic diamonds. Intersections are posted. Mileage on the map marks the distance between trail junctions and/or overlooks (camera icons).

Redman Run Trail (TR 507) begins as forest road 214. It starts heading due west but quickly turns north, climbing easily and obliquely up the back of the mountain.

At 0.65 turn left onto FR214A. In another 0.24 miles the trail leaves on a footpath to the right of the forest road. Follow the blazes. This is the hardest segment of the hike but is short-lived.

Climb another 0.92 miles to the intersection with the North Fork Mountain Trail (TR 507). Walk across a campsite to a rock ledge for your first view.

Continue North (right turn from Redman Run Trail) for 1.4 miles to the next overlook. There will be an a sketchy footpath on the left through a Mountain Laurel/pitch pine thicket. There might me a small, obviously scuffed log lying across the trail. You're at the second overlook. Besides a view of the Allegheny front to the west, if you look north you'll see some of the "Chimney Rocks" you've been walking behind.

Continue north on North Fork Mt Trail for another 0.39 miles to another campsite on the left. More views can be had here by walking through open woods to the ridge.

After climbing an additional 0.95 miles (You will know you're close to the top when you pass through some nice mountain top Rhododendrons.) come to an outstanding rock outcrop to the left. I named it Singleton Rock after the gentleman who showed me how to get on top of the rock. There are breaks in the chimneys allowing you to look out into the valley and the opposite ridge. For a more grandiose view follow a trail that, for the most part, hugs the back of the outcrop to a point where you can step up onto the top of the chimneys. Walk back towards where you originally stopped and take in this view.

Return to the main trail and continue north. For the next 1.19 miles the trail is mostly flat as you walk across a saddle to the junction of the Landis trail on the right.

Pass Landis Tr and continue straight on the North Fork Mt Trail and descend to avoid a posted Peregrine Falcon nesting area. As quickly as you descend you will change direction and climb back to the top of the ridge. Look for a side trail that will take you out to an area I call "Table Rock" for obvious reasons. Besides views to the south and west you get an impressive view north of the focal point of the hike, Chimney Top.

Continue north on The North Fork Mt Tr for about another 0.5 miles to a lesser overlook. As you leave the vista the main trail will slide down off of the ridge but a footpath will continue along and/or right behind it, close to the rocks. This is one of the side trails to Chimney Top. At some points it may look like the trail ends but a quick step up onto a large rock will put you back on it. Walk through some pitch pines and avoid the temptation to look out into the valley. At a sandy spot the trail makes a sharp left. It's a matter of climbing up onto a rock outcrop to arrive at your destination. Another option is to pass this sketchy trail and continue a short distance to a more obvious trail marked by cairns. Turn left and climb until the trail seems to stop at a long rock. Step up onto the rock and connect with the previously discussed trail. When traveling north I like to take the first one in and the second trail out for obvious reasons.

After taking in all the grandeur that the North Fork Valley has to offer, return to the side trail that goes back to the main trail. You can either go all the way back or look for the other trail that descends more quickly to the main trail. It is just beyond the pitch pines you walked through earlier and requires you to steep down off of the rocks to reach it.

Regardless of which trail you take back to the North Fork Mountain trail, proceed north on it. At intervals of 0.21, 0.19 and 0.29 miles come to even more vistas. Down in the valley you can see Smoke Hole Caverns and the Town of Cabins. Looking north you can see New Creek Mountain.

From there it is a relatively rapid descent, via switchbacks, to get back to your cars. Return at approximately 1.66 miles from the last overlook.