

# Lover's Leap Loop Trail

Hot Springs Area

Trail # 308



## Characteristics

The loop starts at Silvermine trailhead parking area. For the easiest route, walk down the access road leading to the parking area at Nantahala Outdoor Center, cross Silvermine Creek at bridge, and follow the Appalachian Trail (white blazes) along the French Broad River. After approximately a half mile, the trail climbs steeply through several switchbacks to Lover's Leap Ridge. The ridge offers rock outcrops with numerous overlooks. From here the Appalachian Trail continues north to Mill Ridge. To complete Lover's Leap Loop, take Lover's Leap Trail to the left (orange blazes). Be sure to stay to the left at the intersection with Pump Gap Trail to descend through the forest back to Silvermine trailhead parking area.

## Highlights

- Combines Lover's Leap Trail and Appalachian Trail to form a short hike along the French Broad River and steep rocky ridge.
- Follows river a short distance and climbs Lover's Leap Ridge. Panoramic views of French Broad River and town of Hot Springs.

## Statistics

**Total Length:** 1.6 miles

**Total Elevation Change:** 500 feet

**Degree of Difficulty:** Difficult

**Beginning Point:** Silvermine Trailhead

**Ending Point:** Silvermine Trailhead

**Average Hiking Time:** One hour (one way)

**Amount of Use:** Heavy

### **Blaze Colors:**

**Lover's Leap Trail:** Orange Rectangle

**Appalachian Trail:** White Rectangle

**Area Trail Maps:** Harmon Den/Hot Springs Trail Map

**USGS Quad Map:** Hot Springs

### Access

From Burnsville, travel west on US-19 and then merge onto I-26E. Take Exit 11 toward Mars Hill/Marshall. Turn left onto NC213/Carl Eller Road. This will lead into Marshall. Take the US-25 Bypass/ US-70 Ramp, merging onto US-25/US-70 heading toward Hot Springs. Eventually, turn left to continue on US25/US-0. Immediately before crossing the French Broad River turn left onto SR 1304. Turn left at first intersection and follow the signs to Silvermine trailhead parking area.



## Pisgah National Forest

Appalachian Ranger District, P.O. Box 128, Burnsville, NC 28714, (828) 682-6146