

# Van Cliff Loop Trail

Hot Springs Area

Trail # 313



## Characteristics

Van Cliff Loop Trail begins at Rocky Bluff Campground near Campsite 8. The trail leaves the campground on an old roadbed. At the first fork, the trail becomes a loop. The easier route follows the left fork, which crosses the creek and climbs across SR 209. After crossing the highway, the trail follows another old road to the top of the ridge. Farmland once existed along these roads. The trail follows the ridge, descends through a large hemlock stand, crosses a small stream and descends steeply along an old road. Crossing SR 209 again, the path passes boulders and follows the stream back to the fork and campground.

## Highlights

- Offers a walk along streams and ridge tops where remains of old homesteads and fields are evident.
- The vegetation changes from low, dense, vegetation along the stream, to cove hardwoods and piney ridge tops.
- Picnicking, water, restrooms, and camping are available at Rocky Bluff Campground May-October.

## Statistics

**Total Length:** 2.6 miles

**Total Elevation Change:** 600 feet

**Degree of Difficulty:** Difficult

**Beginning Point:** Rocky Bluff Campground

**Ending Point:** Rocky Bluff Campground

**Average Hiking Time:** 2.5 hours (round-trip)

**Amount of Use:** Moderate

**Blaze Color:** Yellow Rectangle

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

**USGS Quad Map:** Spring Creek

## Access

From Burnsville, go west on NC 19E and merge onto I-26E. Take Exit 11 toward Mars Hill/Marshall. Turn Left onto NC-213/Carl Eller Road, which leads 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 US-25/US-70. Once in Hot Springs, take on SR 209S for 3.3 miles to Rocky Bluff Campground. Hikers should park in spaces at picnic area.



## Pisgah National Forest

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