



First Wilderness Heritage Corridor

Hiking Trails

Balm of Gilead Mountain

SIAMESE PONDS WILDERNESS - TOWN OF JOHNSBURG, NY



- Difficulty:** Easy
- Length:** 1.8 miles round trip
- Time to Complete:** 1-2 hours
- Trailhead Coordinates:** -74 6.29 43 42.53
- Elevation Gain:** 433'
- Markers:** Red, Yellow, Red
- Trail Notes:** This short hike starts out flat and then climbs steadily to the summit of Balm of Gilead Mountain (named for a type of poplar tree) where open ledges offer a great spot for a picnic and to take in views of Thirteenth Lake and the surrounding mountains to the west. The official trailhead is at the end of Old Farm Road, but Garnet Hill allows hikers to access the trail from its property. Follow the red-marked William Blake Trail a short distance to the start of the state land and continue on to the intersection. Follow the yellow Halfway Brook trail for a tenth of a mile. Turn left onto the red-marked Balm of Gilead trail to continue to the summit.



Directions and Parking:

From the south, take the Northway to exit 23. Turn left off the exit and then right onto Route 9 North for 4.2 miles. Turn left onto NY28 for 21.2 miles. Turn left onto 13th Lake Rd for 4.4 miles. Follow the signs for the Garnet Hill Ski shop to the right and park at the tennis court. The trailhead is not signed. Follow the road to the left of the tennis courts a short distance until you see an old trail kiosk off to the right. Follow the sign for William Blake Pond on the trail to the right.

Things to Do Nearby:

Garnet Hill offers a number of recreational opportunities, including cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and mountain biking, as well as a lodge for overnight guests and a restaurant. Numerous trails in the Siamese Ponds Wilderness can be accessed nearby. Swim, paddle, fish, or camp at Thirteenth Lake.

