

**Puffer Pond** The trail to Puffer Pond will take you through many different wilderness settings. Along the way you will walk through pine groves and old hardwood forests. Hour Pond Brook is walked along for part of the way. There are hills to go up and hills to go down as the trail winds on. Puffer Pond offers two lean-tos for the camping backpacker. It is a pretty pond nestled between Puffer, the 92nd highest mountain in the Adirondacks, and Bullhead Mountain. It is wise to carry a topographical map and compass on this hike.

*Distance:* 5.2 miles one way.

*Estimated time one way:* 3 hours 20 minutes

**Siamese Ponds** This is a very interesting trip for the avid hiker. The trail follows the East Branch of the Sacandaga River for much of the way. The Ponds that give the Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area its name are truly beautiful, and a great fisherman's destination. It is recommended that you make this an overnight trip. Only a fast hiker who keeps moving all day long can make this a day trip, and even then it would be a full day trip, using every hour of sunlight available. Be sure to have a topographical map and a compass for this hike.

*Distance:* 9.1 miles one way.

*Estimated time one way:* 6 hours



Crane Mt. Summit

## Additional Area Hikes

**Blue Mt.** - This hike is a classic. The trailhead begins just past the Adirondack Museum in Blue Mt. Lake. Blue offers great views of the Adirondack Lake Country and still has a fire tower on the summit accessible to the public.

**Snowy Mt. & Chimney Mt.** - Both of these trails begin near the town of Indian Lake. For Snowy, take route 28 to Indian Lake, left on route 30 approximately 6 miles. The trailhead is on the right side of the road. For Chimney Mt. turn left on route 30 at Indian Lake then left on Big Brook Road to Kings Flow. Chimney is a nice hike with great summit views. Hikers are rewarded for their climb up chimney with the opportunity to tour ice caves near the summit.

**The Shaefer Trail & North Creek Ski Bowl** - Near the Health Center on Rt. 28, turn on to Ski Bowl Road. Follow signs to the trailhead - The Shaefer trail ascends to the summit of Burnt Ridge and eventually to the summit of Gore Mt.

**Crane Mt.** This is one of the most interesting hikes in the Southern Adirondacks. There is a pond near the summit, a succession of ladders up cliff faces and the opportunity to make a loop, climbing up one trail and descending another. The trailhead is off the South Johnsbury Road near Thurman. To reach the trailhead go south on Rt. 28 to Wevertown and turn right on Rt. 8. Go about a mile into the hamlet of Johnsbury. Turn left on the South Johnsbury Road. Look for a right hand turn after 4 miles or so directing you to the trailhead parking.

**Gore Mt.** The ski center at Gore Mt. offers some spectacular views from its summit. Summer season at Gore includes scenic gondola rides. Guests can ride the gondola both ways or hike

back down to the base area. The lift is also used for lift access mt. biking.

**Visitor's Interpretive Center and Goodnow Mt.** Both of these are in the town of Newcomb. Drive South on Rt. 28 to North Creek. Turn left on Rt. 28N toward Minerva and Newcomb. Continue on Rt. 28N for 30 miles to Newcomb. Drive through town and look for the Visitor Center on your right. The Visitor Center is open daily and contains a great interpretive exhibit about the Adirondacks, a slide show, and nature trails. Goodnow Mt. trailhead is located just down the road past the VIC on your left. The trail is well maintained and offers some of the best views of the High Peaks. Also near the VIC is the Great Camp Santanoni, now open for summer tours.

**Adirondack High Peaks, Tahawas Trailhead** - This is the Southern most trailhead into the High Peaks Area. It is possible to climb Algonquin (NY's 2<sup>nd</sup> highest), Colden and other peaks in a day from this trailhead (leave early!). Follow the same directions to Newcomb, but turn right onto the Blue Ridge Road and follow signs to the Trailhead.

## Hiking Hints

The Boy Scouts say it best "*be prepared!*" Plan your day - leave plenty of time to complete your hike and return safely. Know your limits - Don't attempt routes or destinations that appear beyond your ability or experience. What to Bring - water (don't drink from any water source in the field - water must be filtered or chemically treated to destroy potentially present *giardia* and other bacteria), flashlight, matches, first aid kit, extra clothing (weather especially at high elevations can be freezing even in summer!), rain gear, extra food or energy bars, bug repellent, sunglasses, sunscreen, maps and guidebook

# GARNET HILL LODGE

## *Hiking Guide*



Includes information about Area Hikes and local destinations including: The Hooper Mine, William Blake Pond, Balm of Gilead Mt., Peaked Mt. Pond, Elizabeth Point, Hour Pond, Puffer Pond, and Siamese Ponds

## Garnet Hill Lodge

13th Lake Road North River, NY 12856  
(518) 251-2444 [www.garnet-hill.com](http://www.garnet-hill.com)

## Welcome to the Mountains!

The wilderness surrounding Garnet Hill Lodge offers many opportunities for hikers of all skill levels. Alternatives range from climbing mountains with beautiful views to visiting some of the prettiest backwoods ponds in the Adirondacks.

The hikes featured in this brochure begin at three different trailheads. All of the trailheads can be walked to from the Lodge, but driving a car to them can save you a lot of time and energy for your hike.

The Garnet Hill Lodge Ski/Bike Shop is the starting point for the first three hikes described within this booklet.

The NY State Access to 13th Lake Trailhead is the starting point for the Peaked Mountain Pond trail. To get here from Garnet Hill Lodge go down 13th Lake Road from the lodge and make the fifth left hand turn onto Beach Road. The trailhead is at the end of this road.



View from Balm of Gilead

The Old Farm Road Trailhead is the beginning point of the last four hikes described in this booklet. To get here from Garnet Hill Lodge go down 13th Lake Road and make the second left hand turn onto Old Farm Road. The trailhead is at the end of the road.

Have a good time on your hike and be sure to use caution when in the woods. Remember to bring plenty of water and snacks. A 13th Lake region topographical map and a good compass are recommended.

## Ski/Bike Shop Trailhead

**Hooper Mine** This is a nice short hike for the entire family. The Hooper Mine is an open pit garnet mine dating back to the 1800's. The trail to the abandoned mine ascends a gradual grade. Pockets of garnet can be seen in the rocks there, and the mine offers a superb view of Ruby Mountain and the present day Barton's Garnet Mines.

*Distance:* 0.4 mile one way.  
*Estimated time one way:* 20 minutes.

**William Blake Pond** A trip to the small William Blake Pond is another great hike for the whole family. Originally, William Blake Pond was dammed to provide water for operating the Hooper Mine. The trail into William Blake is used as the Garnet Hill Nature Trail, so be sure to inquire about a nature booklet before you go. With the booklet you will be able to identify trees and read about the different stations along the way.

*Distance:* 0.8 mile one way.  
*Estimated time one way:* 30 minutes.

**Balm of Gilead Mountain** The mountain derives its name from the "Balm of Gilead" or "Balsam" Poplar, a member of the willow family, that is found here. The trail moderately slopes upward through an old hardwood forest. The summit offers an impressive view of Thirteenth Lake and the Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area. This is definitely the best view for the least amount of work at Garnet Hill Lodge.

*Distance:* 0.9 mile one way.  
*Estimated time one way:* 45 minutes.

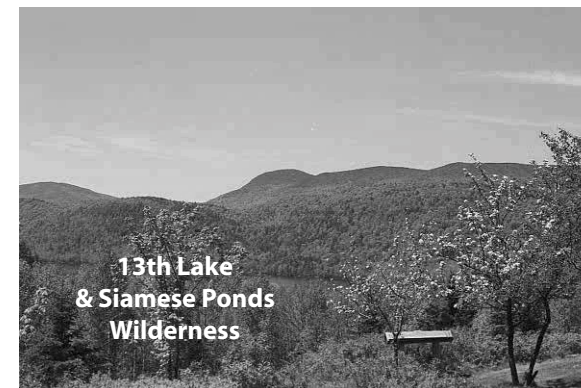
## 13th Lake Trailhead

**Peaked Mountain and Peaked Mountain Pond** The trail to Peaked Mountain Pond offers an escape to the hiker looking to really get into the backwoods. The trail follows 13th Lake for half a mile and then heads gradually uphill through the mountains. Peaked Mountain Brook is walked along much of the time. Several small beaver ponds along the way make for great rest spots. The special trout waters of Peaked Mountain Pond allow no live bait under New York State law, only worms and lures.

The rock face of picturesque Peaked Mountain, overshadowing the pond, offers the more experienced hiker another adventure. The trail from the pond to the summit is an additional half mile. Hikers continuing on to climb Peaked Mountain should take caution and be prepared for a steeper hike. Depending on weather conditions the rocks can be very slippery. The view from the summit makes the climb well worthwhile.

*Distance:* 2.5 miles one way. Hikers advancing to summit of Peaked Mountain add 1/2 mile.

*Estimated time one way:* 1 hour 20 minutes, hikers advancing to summit of Peaked Mountain add 30 minutes.



## The Old Farm Rd. Trailhead

**Elizabeth Point** Those looking to hike to a great spot on 13th Lake will find the trail into Elizabeth Point very enjoyable. This is a nice spot for a picnic lunch.

*Distance:* 0.8 mile one way.  
*Estimated time one way:* 30 minutes.

The remaining hikes should only be considered by the more experienced hiker. They all involve hiking on several different trails to reach their locations. A good topographical map is needed to navigate so you won't get lost, and a compass is recommended. They are all longer hikes and will consume most of the day, so plan accordingly. It is wise to carry a day pack on a hike this long, stocked with a first aid kit and a flashlight with new batteries. Make sure you also bring along enough to eat, plenty of water, and appropriate clothing for changing weather conditions.

**Hour Pond** This hike is for those looking to have a full day outing. It involves navigating several different trails to get to the pond, so a good topographical map is recommended. Along the way you will encounter a beaver pond, where you must walk across the beaver's dam to continue on. The cascading Hour Pond Brook is seen throughout much of the hike. When the pond is reached you are welcomed to a totally tranquil setting.

*Distance:* 4 miles one way.  
*Estimated time one way:* 2 hours 30 minutes.

*"The clearest way into the universe is through a forest wilderness."*

John Muir