

Lookouts Hike



Length: 7.5 miles

Map: NY-NJ Trail Conference *North Jersey Trails Map # 115*

Highlights

This hike takes you to five scenic lookouts in the northern portion of Camp and beyond into nearby areas of the Ramapo Greenway. You will have views to both the east and the west, on a clear day from the Manhattan Skyline to New Jersey's High Point, even on a hazy day the views are spectacular.

Trail Description

- 0.00 mi** Start on the Millstone Trail, which is blazed with White blazes, at the trail head which is to the left of the Camp HQs parking area just before the Caretaker's Home.
- 0.40 mi** The White blazes of the Millstone Trail join the Yellow blazes of the Yellow Trail coming in from down the hill on the right, you follow the Yellow Trail ahead slightly to the left.
- 0.92 mi** At this point you are at the Alligers Overlook, a great view to the east and the Manhattan Skyline. After taking some pictures continue on the Yellow trail. This overlook is named for the jolly green giant who used to own all of the Ramapo Greenway after she bought it from the then native Americans of the area back in 1603.
- 0.97 mi** The Old Guard Trail starts on the left, the Trail is blazed with a Green Tulip Leaf on a White Blaze. You now leave the Yellow Trail and follow the Old Guard Trail off to the left.
- 1.47 mi** The Tulip Leaf blazes of the Old Guard Trail take you right past the old Middle Valley Lookout on your left. This lookout is noted as far back as 1948 on old maps in the Camp archive, imagine how the vegetation has changes in over 60 years.
- 1.62 mi** The Old Guard Trail crosses the Cannonball Trail at this point. You will now follow the White C on Red blazes of the Cannonball Trail to the right.
- 1.68 mi** The Green Trail with the expected Green blazes comes in from the left. Follow the Green Trail over to next overlook.
- 1.91 mi** The Green Trail ends at the Yellow blazes of the Hoeflerlin Memorial Trail. At this junction is the Erskine Overlook, named for Robert Erskine who ran the Ringwood Ironworks during the 1700's that made cannonballs and other iron products for the War of Independence. After observing the New Jersey Highlands and the view out towards Greenwood Lake you will now hike south along the Hoeflerlin Memorial Trail following the Yellow blazes by turning left from the end of the Green Trail.
- 2.30 mi** The Hoeflerlin Memorial Trail now crosses the Old Guard Trail, turn right and follow the familiar Green Tulip Leaf on White blazes.
- 2.41 mi** The Old Guard Trail meets the Red Blazes of the Ringwood Ramapo-Trail at the next overlook. After you get a good look at the Wanaque Reservoir you will turn left and follow the combined Old Guard and Ringwood-Ramapo Trails.
- 2.50 mi.** The Trails split at this point. The Old Guard's Green Tulip Leaf on White blazes stay to the left, you should stay to the right and follow the Red blazes of the Ringwood-Ramapo Trail.
- 2.71 mi.** The Ringwood-Ramapo Trail ends at an intersection with the Hoeflerlin Memorial Trail marked with its Yellow blazes. You want to turn right onto the Hoeflerline Memorial Trail to keep going in a generally southerly direction.
- 2.90 mi.** The Hoeflerlin Memorial Trail merges with the Cannonball Trail with its White C on Red blazes. The Cannonball Trail comes in on the left, you continue basically straight ahead following the combined Yellow and White C on Red blazes.
- 3.75 mi.** The Matapan Rock Trail with its Red blazes crosses the combined Hoeflerline Memorial and Cannonball Trails. You want to turn right on the Matapan Rock Trail and follow the Red blazes out to your

last overlook. There is a NJ communications radio tower nearby and access road and paths to the tower will cross your trail, be sure to follow the Red blazes and stay on the Matapan Rock Trail.

3.82 mi. The Matapan Rock Trail ends at the Matapan Rock overlook. You can hear the traffic on Skyline Drive just below, but the view over the road to the west will let you see Wanaque Reservoir and beyond out into the Norvin Green State Forest. You can't hike straight over to that area but there is another dense network of hiking trails maintained by the Trail Conference available on the far side of the reservoir if you ever run out of hiking challenges here in the Ramapo Greenway. The trails over to that area run through the Ringwood Manor State Park. When you're ready to get back on the trail you should follow the Red blazes of the Matapan Rock Trail back into Camp.

3.89 mi. The Matapan Rock Trail crosses the Cannonball Trail with the White C on Red blazes and the Hoeflerlin Trail with its Yellow blazes, cross them both and proceed into the woods. You will pass some old building foundations from an abandoned farm and then come out onto the clear cut strip for the Trans-Contential Pipeline. The Matapan Rock Trail continues across the pipeline cut, back into the woods on the other side of the cut, taking a slight left shift as it crosses the pipeline.

4.57 mi. The Matapan Rock Trail ends inside of Camp at a camp road that is the route of the Schuber Trail with its Orange blaze. Follow the Schuber Trail to the right and down back into Camp.

5.05 mi. The Schuber Trail joins with the Millstone Trail which is blazed with White blazes near the Gasser Memorial Mother's Pavilion, this is the other end of the Millstone Trail from where you started your hike. You want to bid goodbye to the Schuber Trail and follow the Millstone Trail's White blazes back down to the Camp HQs, just ahead past the Waterfront and the Rotary Cabin.

5.60 mi. The hike ends at the end of the Millstone Trail just before the main camp road across from the Camp HQs.

Hope you enjoyed the hike and got some good pictures, if you have some you really like please send them to us at hiking@glengray.org.

The Hiking the Glen Project is the latest effort to encourage hiking in the Ramapo Greenway. The author gratefully acknowledges the efforts of the many Boy Scouts, their leaders and others who over past years have developed and maintained earlier versions of these sheets. While using the existing material the author remains completely responsible for this version. Further information about the Hiking the Glen Project is contained on the Hiking the Glen sheet that should be reviewed by all users for details about the specific hiking sheets.

The trails on these sheets are part of the North Jersey Trails network designed, developed and maintained by the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference. The trails are subject to changes at the discretion of the Trail Conference and its land management partners. The mileage references used on these sheets are approximate and are based on GPS readings from actual hikes of the route, your GPS readings as well as measured map distances will vary. Further information about the trail network is contained on Trail Map # 115 of the *North Jersey Trails* map set. The complete map set can be obtained at the Camp Glen Gray HQs or directly from the Trail Conference. Additional information about the Trail Conference is available at www.NyNjTc.org.

Camp Glen Gray is a weekend camping facility and as such the camp parking area is not available for use as a day hiking trailhead. The trails in the Ramapo Greenway area, including those described on this sheet, can be accessed for day hiking from trailhead parking areas on nearby public roads, the three closest to Camp Glen Gray are on Skyline Drive and Ramapo Valley Road/Route 202, details are on Trail Map # 115 of the *North Jersey Trails* map set.

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