

Matapan Rock Hike



Length: under 2 miles

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

Highlights

The hike takes you out to Matapan Rock, the closest lookout to Camp. It gives you a spectacular view to the west out over the Jersey Highlands. It is a historic site that has been used by many Cub Scout Packs as their first hike in Camp since the beginning of the Cub Scout program. Before that it was used as a first hike for many new Scouts. In the 21st century families camping at Camp Glen Gray are now using it as their first hike in the Ramapo Greenway.

Trail Description

0.00 mi. The hike begins just to the left of the parking lot across the camp road from Camp HQs, on the Millstone Trail, which is blazed with White blazes. The Millstone Trail starting trailhead is marked by a single White blaze over two White blazes on the right of the road which you will follow up the hill.

0.04 mi. The Rotary Cabin, HT 9, will be on your right as you walk up the road; on the left is an historic campsite named Pattigumpus.

0.16 mi. The Waterfront will be on your right; on the left of the road are two more old campsites, Upper and Lower Bluntville, HT 21, named for Robert Blunt, a former Scoutmaster from Cedar Grove.

0.21 mi. After you pass the Boathouse on your left you'll approach the Mother's Pavilion, HT 16, on the right. The White blazes of the Millstone Trail are joined from the left by the Orange blazes of the Schuber Trail. At this intersection the Millstone Trail with its White blazes leaves off to the left. You'll want to continue straight ahead past the Mother's Pavilion by following the Orange blazes of the Schuber Trail.

0.25 mi. The Schuber Trail continues past the Amphitheater, HT 31, on the right and up the hill past Benedict Lodge on the left and the Gilwell campsite on the right.

0.34 mi. As you approach an intersection of camp roads the Matapan Rock Trail begins, you'll see the trailhead marked with the Red Square on White blazes. Using standard trail marking convention the Matapan Rock Trail trailhead is marked with one blaze over two blazes signifying the beginning of the trail. Begin to follow the Red Square on White blazes out to Matapan Rock by turning left up the hill towards the the Ramapo campsite and Troop 12 Montclair Cabin, leaving the Orange blazes of the Schuber Trail as the Schuber Trail goes off to the right.

0.52 mi. Follow the Red Square on White blazes into the woods as you leave the camp road to climb a hill.

0.63 mi. At the top of the hill turn left onto a woods road.

0.77 mi. The trail comes to a wide grassy clear-cut area, the route of the buried Algonquin Pipeline. The trail crosses the clearing to the left on a diagonal as you approach the pipeline. The Red Square on White blaze will be visible at the end of a trampled path through the high grass of the pipeline.

0.92 mi. The trail comes to a crossing with a gravel access road to a state communications tower; just continue straight ahead and follow the Red Square on White blazes of the Matapan Rock Trail.

0.85 mi. The Matapan Rock Trail crosses the co-aligned Cannonball Trail with its White C on Red blazes and the Hoferlin Memorial Trail with Yellow blazes. You just continue to follow the Red Square on White blazes of the Matapan Rock Trail.

1.00 mi. The Matapan Rock Trail ends at its western trailhead.

1.03 mi. Just beyond the end of the trail, you'll come out to the Matapan Rock Lookout for a view of the southern portion of the Wanaque Reservoir as well as views of the Jersey Highlands to the west. When you're ready to return to the hike you'll follow the Red Square on White blazes of the Matapan Rock Trail back the way you came in.

1.09 mi. You will again cross the co-aligned Cannonball & Hoferlin Memorial Trails, just continue to follow the Red Square on White blazes.

- 1.11 mi. Cross the gravel access road for the state communications tower and continue to stay with the Red Square on White blazes.
- 1.17 mi. As you continue to follow the Red Square Blazes look to your left and you'll see the ruins of some earlier activities here in the Ramapo Greenway, did you see them walking up?
- 1.24 mi. As you continue to return to Camp you will cross the Algonquin Pipeline again and then back into the woods of Camp. The trail enters the woods slightly to your left as you cross the pipeline.
- 1.40 mi. The trail turns right and leaves the woods road onto a woods trail. As you are hiking back down into Camp be sure to follow the blazed trail, in several places the trail has been relocated off the old camp roads to minimize erosion. Please help protect the environment by staying on the trail, just keep watching for the Red Square on White blazes.
- 1.42 mi. The trail is now back in Camp, you will now follow the Red Square on White blazes along the upper camp road by turning to the right.
- 1.48 mi. You come back down into the center area of Camp and pass the Troop 12 Montclair Cabin, just continue to follow the Red Square on White blazes down the hill.
- 1.54 mi. The trail takes you past the Ramapo and Stag Run campsites, just keep following the Red Square on White blazes of the Matapan Rock Trail.
- 1.59 mi. The Matapan Rock Trail will come to an intersection with the Schuber Trail which is blazed with Orange blazes. Follow the Red Square on White blazes to the right by following the camp road and trails to the right.
- 1.61 mi. You will see the ending trailhead of the Matapan Rock Trail with its two blazes over one blaze marking, the ending trailhead marking is the inverse of the starting trailhead. When the Matapan Rock Trail ends you will continue to follow the Orange blazes of the Schuber Trail down the hill towards Lake Vreeland.
- 1.63 mi. The Schuber Trail continues past the Gilwell campsite on the left and Benedict Lodge on the right and then down the hill past the Amphitheater on the left.
- 1.73 mi. After you pass the Mother's Pavilion on the left, the Orange blazes of the Schuber Trail turn sharply to the right, as the White blazes of the Millstone Trail come in from the right. You continue straight ahead after you pass the Mother's Pavilion, now on the Millstone Trail, by following the White blazes.
- 1.77 mi. You will again pass the Waterfront as you follow the White blazes of the Millstone Trail along the south shore of Lake Vreeland. Further ahead you will pass the Rotary Cabin.
- 1.92 mi. The hike ends at the Millstone Trail trailhead, with two White blazes arranged over one White blaze to designate the end of the Millstone Trail. This has you back where you began your hike, just across the camp road from Camp HQs.

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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