

PARK TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS

From scenic vistas to beautiful overlooks, hiking trails at West Virginia's state parks and forests lead to breathtaking mountain scenery. Along the way create lasting memories but remember to leave no trace behind in Almost Heaven.

🕅 = Hiking 👪 = Horseback Riding 😰 = Mountain Bike Riding 🛃 = Cross-Country Skiing

CONNECTOR TRAIL 🕅 🖻

Trailhead located along service road where Twin Hollow Trail crosses. This is a short and steep trail connecting Twin Hollow Trail to Ridge Top Trail. **Distance:** 50 yards **Walking time:** 5 minutes **Difficulty:** Moderate **Blaze:** \diamondsuit

ISLAND-IN-THE-SKY TRAIL

Trailhead at Grist Mill and at small parking lot in the sharp curve along the road to Boley Lake. Trail is moderately difficult and mostly uphill if starting at the Grist Mill; easy and mostly level if starting at the sharp curve. High cliff areas with beautiful vistas. **NOTE:** High cliff areas. Be careful.

Distance: 0.5 mile Walking time: 30-45 minutes Difficulty: easy to difficult Blaze: ↔

LAKE VIEW TRAIL

Easy, mostly level loop trail around Boley Lake. Trailhead at Boley Lake parking lot or at gate above Grist Mill. Spur from Grist Mill gate 0.5 mile long, uphill and moderately difficult. **Distance:** 1-mile loop **Walking time:** 1 hour **Difficulty:** easy to moderate **Blaze:** \blacklozenge

MANNS CREEK GORGE TRAIL 🕅 🖻

Not a loop trail - return along same trail or walk the Camp Washington Carver Road back to the campground. Trailheads: across from Campsite 26 and at the first parking area at Camp Washington Carver. Scenic vistas. **Distance:** 2 miles one way **Walking time:** 5 minutes - 11/2 -2 hours **Difficulty:** moderate to difficult

Blaze: 🔶

MOUNTAIN HEATH TRAIL

Numbered posts and a booklet (available at park headquarters) lead the hiker around this loop self-guided trail. Trailhead is 300 yards north of the main intersection on the road leading to the Mann's Creek Picnic Area. Parking spur on right side of road, trailhead on the left. Short trail leading to a natural arch leads off from the right side of the parking spur. No blazes. **Distance:** .25 mile

Walking time: Difficulty: moderate Blaze: none

NARROW GAUGE TRAIL 🕅 😰

Not a loop trail - hikers must return along the same trail or via park roads. Easy, gentle grade; follows bed of Mann's Creek Railway that connected Clifftop with Sewell until its closure in 1956. Railroad ties, telegraph poles, and other remnants of the old railway are still evident. Trailheads: service road between campground and economy cabins and on Sewell Road approximately .75 mile below Cabin 13. Mountain bikes permitted; carry bikes around several difficult sections of the trail. **Distance:** 2.25 miles **Walking time:** 1.5 hours one way **Difficulty:** moderate to difficult **Blaze:**

OLD SEWELL TRAIL 🕅 🔊

Official trailhead located below cabin #13. Parking available at the Administration Building and Grist Mill lots. Once part of the Narrow Gauge Railroad, this trail is moderate with a gradual, downhill grad and leads to the former mining town of Sewell, featuring different flora and fauna, a coal boiler, and waterfalls. Trail leaves Babcock State Park and enters the New River Gorge National Park & Preserve. **Distance:** 5.5 miles one way **Walking time:** 1.5 to 2 hours one way **Difficulty:** moderate **Blaze:**

RIDGE TOP TRAIL 🕅 🖻

Trailhead across from Short Cut Trail or past the Natural Arch parking area on the right, if coming from the main park entrance. Trail is moderately difficult with some steep uphill sections from either starting point. Trail follows along the crest of a ridge at some of the highest elevations at Babcock State Park. **Distance:** 2 miles one way **Walking time:** 2 to 2.5 hours **Difficulty:** moderate **Blaze:**

ROCKY TRAIL

Short, steep, difficult trail connects Skyline Trail with Narrow Gauge Trail. Rocky Trail is primarily a stone staircase that was constructed by the C.C.C. in the 1930s. Much easier walking downhill from Skyline. **Distance:** 0.5 mile **Walking time:** 15 minutes **Difficulty:** difficult **Blaze:**

SHORT CUT TRAIL 🕅 🖻

Trailhead is shared with Ridge Top Trail parking along Mann's Creek Road. Moderately difficult and a fairly steep downhill section connecting to Old Pond Trail. **Distance:** 300 yards **Walking time:** 15 minutes **Difficulty:** moderate **Blaze:** \blacklozenge

SKYLINE TRAIL

Not a loop trail - Trailheads: Mann's Creek overlook in picnic area and across road from Cabin 5. Hikers must return along same trail or via park roads. Follows natural cliff line; spectacular vistas. **NOTE:** High cliff area; be careful. **Distance:** 2 miles **Walking time:** 1.25 hours one way **Difficulty:** moderate to difficult **Blaze:**

Trail begins at swimming pool parking lot and connects to Wilderness Trail. Moderate to difficult; features three creek crossings. **Distance:** 1 mile **Walking time:** 1 hour **Difficulty:** moderate to difficult

NORTH SLOPE TRAIL 🕅 🖻

Trailhead is shared with Narrow Gauge Trail and is located next to Mann's Creek Bridge on service road. First half of trail from trailhead is level and follows Mann's Creek. Second half of trail is **VERY** steep and a difficult climb connecting to the Ridge Top Trail.

Distance: 0.5 mile one way **Walking time:** 45 minutes to 1 hour **Difficulty:** moderate to difficult

Blaze: 🔶

OLD POND TRAIL 🕅 🖻

Trailhead is at parking lot for the Natural Arch and at the gate before the intersection to the Mann's Creek overlook. Trail is moderately difficult with some uphill sections from either starting point. **Distance:** 1.5 miles one way **Walking time:** 1.5 to 2 hours **Difficulty:** moderate **Blaze:**



TWIN HOLLOW TRAIL 🕅 🖻

TRIPLE CREEK TRAIL 🕅 🖻

Trailhead at the gate before the Mann's Creek intersection; follows a beautiful hollow on the west side of the service road and main park road; moderately difficult with a few steep sections. **Distance:** 0.5 mile one way **Walking time:** 30 to 45 minutes **Difficulty:** moderate **Blaze:**

WILDERNESS TRAIL 🕫 🖻

Dead end trail. Trail connects with Triple Creek Trail. Trailhead at sharp curve on Boley Lake Road. Trail moderate, mostly level, remote. **Distance:** 1.5 miles each way **Walking time:** 2 to 3 hours **Difficulty:** moderate **Blaze:** \diamondsuit