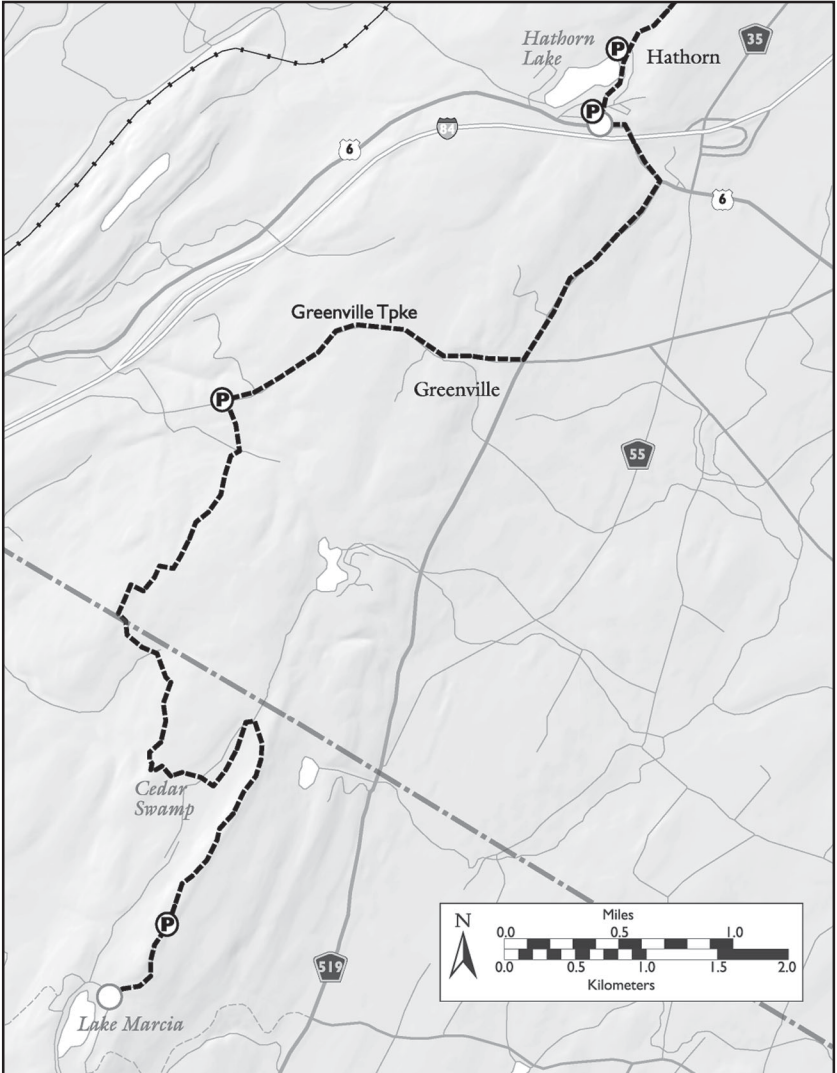


Shawangunk Ridge Trail

The Shawangunk Ridge Trail was originally conceived as a relocation of the Long Path from Harriman State Park to Minnewaska State Park. Now part of the Long Path system, the Shawangunk Ridge Trail provides a woodland alternative to the Orange County route of the Long Path that is mostly a road walk. Aside from being more wooded and isolated from civilization, the trail provides a more varied experience as it wanders up and down, sometimes on the top of the ridge and sometimes beside it.

Along the Shawangunk Ridge Trail near NY Rt. 211 and Mt. Hope





G1. High Point State Park to US Route 6

Features: High Point, Cedar Swamp

Distance: 7.40 miles

USGS Map Quads: Port Jervis South, Unionville, Otisville

Trail Conference Maps: none

General Description

The Shawangunk Ridge Trail begins where the Appalachian Trail heads east from the Kittatinny Ridge in High Point State Park in New Jersey. After leaving the Appalachian Trail, the Shawangunk Ridge Trail passes the highest point in New Jersey, where there is a spectacular view. The trail then continues through High Point State Park. A highlight of the trail is Cedar Swamp, which is a mountaintop cedar bog. In High Point there are three separate ridges; the trail uses all three. Past Cedar Swamp the trail ascends and crosses the border into New York, where it attains the westernmost ridge. The trail then follows the western ridge to Greenville Turnpike. From Greenville Turnpike to Route 6, the trail follows public roads.

Access

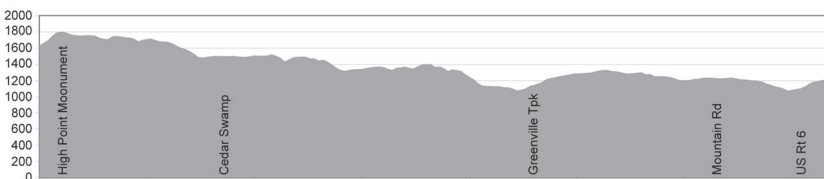
Take Interstate 80 west to NJ Route 23 in Wayne. Take NJ Route 23 west to High Point State Park in northwestern New Jersey. Follow the park roads to the High Point Monument.

Parking

0.30 High Point Monument parking lot. (Unlocated)

4.55 Greenville Turnpike (limited). (18T 528895E 4578397N)

7.40 Hathorn Boulevard and US Route 6 (limited parking here; more parking available 0.35 miles into next section at end of Lake Shore Drive). (18T 531563E 4580348N)



Trail Description

0.00 The Shawangunk Ridge Trail begins in High Point State Park, where the Appalachian Trail intersects the Monument Trail. The Appalachian Trail turns right at this point and descends east off the Kittatinny Ridge. The Shawangunk Ridge Trail follows the Monument Trail north through the park and is marked with white rectangular markers with a red-over-green circular blaze. Additionally, the section from the AT to the High Point Monument is also blazed in light blue, which signifies an AT side trail. After leaving the AT, the Shawangunk Ridge Trail ascends through the woods, passing through a rocky area. The trail crosses the High Point Monument Road, turns right and climbs steeply on a gravel path to the High Point Monument.

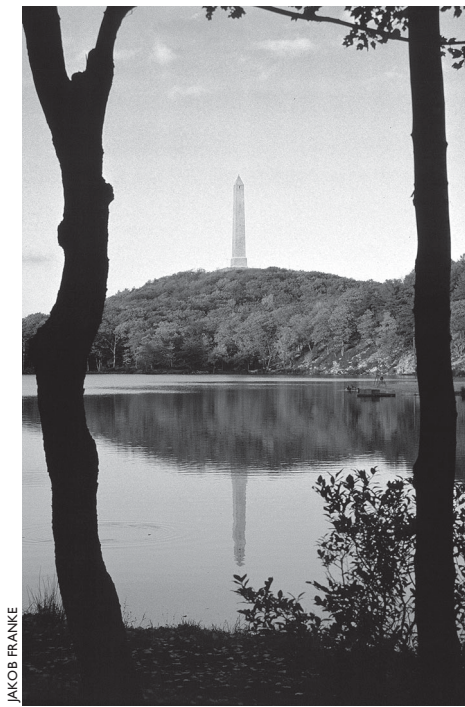
0.25 The trail reaches the High Point Monument, the highest point in New Jersey. From this vantage point there is a spectacular 360-degree view. To the south you can see down the Kittatinnies across the Delaware Water Gap into Pennsylvania. To the west you can see across the Delaware River into the Poconos. To the northwest is the city of Port Jervis, with the Delaware River beyond. The Catskill Mountains are visible to the north, 70 miles distant, and to the northeast is a view all the way up the Shawangunks to Mohonk. To the east you can see into the Wallkill Valley, with the Taconics and the Hudson Highlands in the distance. The highlands of western New Jersey are visible to the southeast. You can take a trip up to the top of the High Point Monument, but it is not necessary for the view. Past the monument, the trail descends gradually to the parking lot. As it descends, the trail passes a park bench with a view across the escarpment to Port Jervis and the Delaware River. The trail passes a concession area with picnic tables. Beyond the picnic area is a public restroom with water fountains. After the restrooms, the trail reaches the parking lot and follows the western edge of the lot in a grassy area.

0.45 The trail reaches the end of the parking lot, goes around the end of the barricade, passes a picnic table and enters the woods between two boulders. The trail follows the ridge north through the woods.

0.95 A side path leads left where there is a view west toward Port Jervis and the Delaware River. Shortly, there is a path to the right to a rock outcropping with a view southeast toward northwestern New Jersey. The trail passes another view to the right and then begins a gradual descent to Cedar Swamp.

1.50 The trail reaches the northeast corner of Cedar Swamp. The Monument Trail continues straight ahead, crossing the outlet of Cedar Swamp. The Shawangunk Ridge Trail turns left and parallels the eastern edge of Cedar Swamp on a woods road. The aqua Long Path blazes begin here.

1.85 The trail turns right and crosses Cedar Swamp on a boardwalk. Cedar Swamp is a magnificent mountaintop bog that is filled with cedar, wild rhododendron and hemlock. Part of the Dryden Kuser Natural Area, Cedar Swamp is the most inland example of Atlantic white cedar, normally a coastal plain evergreen tree. It was named for New Jersey State Senator Dryden Kuser, a leading conservationist and the son of Colonel Anthony Kuser, who donated the land for High Point State Park to New Jersey in 1923. In New Jersey, a



High Point Monument

natural area has the same protection as a New York wilderness area has. Normally a natural area is designated only in an ecologically significant area. After crossing Cedar Swamp, the trail continues along a woods road on the western side of the swamp.

2.05 The trail turns right off the gravel road at a park bench and ascends to the Monument Trail on the western side of Cedar Swamp. It then turns left onto the Monument Trail, which it follows to the top of a small knob. Atop the knob, the trail turns right, leaves the Monument Trail, then passes a view toward the Delaware River and descends off the knob. The trail continues north along the central of three ridges of Kittatinny Mountain through an understory of blueberry.

2.70 The trail turns left and descends on an old woods road toward a stream crossing in a col. After the stream crossing the trail makes a gradual ascent toward the New York border.

3.10 The trail leaves High Point State Park and crosses into New York by a border monument. After crossing into New York the trail climbs up to the westernmost ridge and heads north along the ridge. Once in New York, the name of the mountain range changes from Kittatinny to Shawangunk.

3.25 The trail reaches a viewpoint west over Port Jervis and the Delaware River. The trail then heads north along the slab with a view north toward the Catskills. Shortly, the trail descends into the woods and then follows the ridge

north. It climbs back up to an area of scrub oak and pitch pine, and then turns back north.

3.75 To the left, through the trees, is a view of the Delaware River and Port Jarvis. The trail then begins a gradual descent off the ridge, crosses a woods road, descends to a small stream and levels out.

4.55 The trail reaches Greenville Turnpike and turns right and heads uphill.

5.35 The trail reaches the height of land along Greenville Turnpike and begins to descend. To the left is another mountaintop bog called Mud Pond. Mud Pond in the summer is filled with cattail and purple loosestrife. From Mud Pond there is a view of a radio tower on the ridge. On the right is a small old cemetery called the Seeley Cemetery, which was established in 1840.

6.00 The trail turns left onto Old Mountain Road and parallels the ridge on the east side.

6.90 The trail turns left on US Route 6 and crosses under Interstate 84.

7.40 The trail reaches Hathorn Boulevard, where this section ends. To continue, turn right on Hathorn Boulevard.

Alternate Route

Almost 2 miles of roadwalking have recently been eliminated by rerouting the trail into the woods. Turn left off of the Greenville Turnpike at mile 4.7, and follow the blazes. Although this section is within earshot of Interstate 84 most of the time, there are some nice views of the Neversink Valley below, and the Delaware River in the distance. At approximately mile 6.6, after a very steep descent, the trail reaches Old Mountain Road and continues as described above.