

FIFTEEN HIKES

Easy

Benedict Pond Loop: Wooded 2-mile trail around a pleasant mountain pond with swimming available at the same location. Take Route 20 east to 102 west, about 2 1/2 miles to a left on Meadow Road, then right on Pine Street to Beartown Mountain Road. Continue about 5 miles on a rough state forest road to the Pond. (Monterey & Great Barrington) **Note: Use main entrance if not driving a 4-wheel drive vehicle: take US20 east (1mi.) to Route 102 west (5mi.) to Route 7 south (6mi.), then left on Route 23, watch for left-hand turn on Blue Hill Road in 5 miles and follow signs for Beartown State Forest.**

Canoe Meadows: Walk along graded roads and wooden walkways through a wildlife preserve owned by the Audubon Society; up to 3 miles. Drive west on Route 20 about 7 miles, turn right onto Holmes Road just past the Mobil station. Follow Holmes for about 2 1/2 miles and watch for signs on the right. (Pittsfield) (Fee)

October Mountain Loop Trail: One-mile loop through forest near the campground; excellent for hiking with small children. Take Route 20 west 1/2 mile to right on Center Street, then bear left on Columbia Street. Watch for signs to October Mountain State Forest at Bradley Street in about 1 mile. (Lee)

Olivia's Lookout: Short quarter-mile hike to two excellent lookout spots, east and west. Take Route 20 west to 183 south to Richmond Mountain Road just past the main gate at *Tanglewood*. Continue about 1 mile up the hill to a parking area on the left. (Lenox, West Stockbridge, Richmond)

Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary: Series of nature trails of various lengths suitable for children and handicapped persons. The Upper trails offer longer distances, steep terrain and excellent views from Lenox Mountain. Take Route 20 west about 5 miles and turn left on West Dugway Road, just past *Courtyard Marriott Hotel*. Continue about 1 1/2 miles to the sanctuary. (Lenox) (Fee)

A-T Tyringham Valley Floor: Two-mile hike through woods and on wooden walkways on the famed Appalachian Trail. Hike across valley and back with excellent views. Take Route 20 east to 102 west to left on Tyringham Road. Go 4 miles to Tyringham Center and turn right on Jerusalem Road. Drive up a short hill and watch for gas pipeline crossing. Park by the road and look for white blazed trail on steps over a stone wall on the left side of the road. Walk about one mile to Main Road and return. (Tyringham)



Moderate

Basin Pond: Wooded walk to breached dam, which twice failed causing loss of life and property; about 3 1/2 miles. Take Route 20 east about 4 miles to Becket Road. Turn left and go up the hill about 1/4 mile to a parking area on the left. Signs point to the red blazed trails. (Lee)

Finnerty Pond: Walk old woodland roads to an unspoiled mountain pond at an intersection with the Appalachian Trail; about 2 miles each way. Take Route 20 east about 4 miles to Becket Road. Turn left and go up the road to a small parking area by a yellow gate. Trail is easy to follow with one major intersection, where you will bear right. (Becket & Washington)

Historic Becket Quarry: See an outdoor museum at a quarry abandoned in the 1960s, with much of the original equipment still in place, including the derrick, winches, old trucks, building, small rail cars and railroad track. Hike about 1 mile from the parking area; and more to see other areas of the quarry. Take Route 20 east about 14 miles to the intersection with Route 8 north. Turn right onto Bonny Rigg Hill Road. Continue about 1 1/2 miles to a left at Quarry Road and continue about 1 mile to the quarry parking area. (Becket)

Schermerhorn Gorge: Hike past cascading water to Felton Pond and return. Take Route 20 west, turn right on Center Street. Bear left at Columbia Street and watch for October Mountain State Forest signs at Bradley Street. Go past the campground and reach Woods Pond on your left. Turn right and continue on a very rough, dirt Woodland Road for about 1/2 mile to a small parking area. Follow the blue blazes up past the cascade to the pond. Come down the opposite side of the falls for a different view. (Lee & Washington)

Stone Arch Bridge Trail: View scenic and durable bridges built in the 1830s, some still in use by the *CSX Railroad*; about 2 miles each way. Take Route 20 east about 18 miles to the village of Chester. Go left on Middlefield Road and watch for a kiosk on the left showing the trail in less than 2 miles. (Chester & Middlefield)

Tyringham Cobble: Hike about 2 1/2 miles on a loop through farm fields and up a small hill for a charming view of the valley; includes about 1 mile on the famed Appalachian Trail, which is blazed white. Side trail is blazed blue. Hike the circle going clockwise. Take Route 20 east to 102 west to a left on Tyringham Road. Continue 4 miles to the little town of Tyringham. Turn right onto Jerusalem Road and find a grassy parking area a short distance up the hill on the right. (Tyringham)

Difficult

Monument Mountain: Hike a 3 1/2-mile loop to spectacular views of the Housatonic Valley, the Catskills and Mount Greylock. Strenuous hiking; steep drop-offs; not recommended for small children or pets. Take Route 20 east to 102 west 4 miles to Route 7 south. Parking on Route 7 about 2 1/2 miles south of Stockbridge center. (Great Barrington)

A-T to Goose Pond: Hike a 3-mile round trip to a shelter on the famed Appalachian Trail at lovely Goose Pond; wood land hiking. Take Route 20 east about 5 miles to an A-T parking area and go south following the white blazes on A-T, passing Greenwater Pond, crossing the Mass. Turnpike on footbridges and up a fairly steep hill to the shelter. About 1 1/2 miles each way. (Becket & Lee)

A-T Mount Everett: Hike to the top of 2600+ foot high hill, the highest in Southwestern Massachusetts. Intersect the A-T and hike to the summit with views of New York and Connecticut. Take Route 20 east to 102 west to Route 7 in Stockbridge. Continue 8 miles on Route 7 through Great Barrington and turn right onto Route 23 west and go about 3 miles to South Egremont. Just past the village, turn left on Route 41, then right on Mount Washington Road which becomes East Road in the town of Mount Washington. About 7 miles from South Egremont you will find a parking area on your left with a sign for Mount Everett State Reservation. Hike up the fire tower road to the white blazed A-T and turn right up the hill to the summit. The hike is about 2 miles each direction. (Mount Washington & Sheffield)