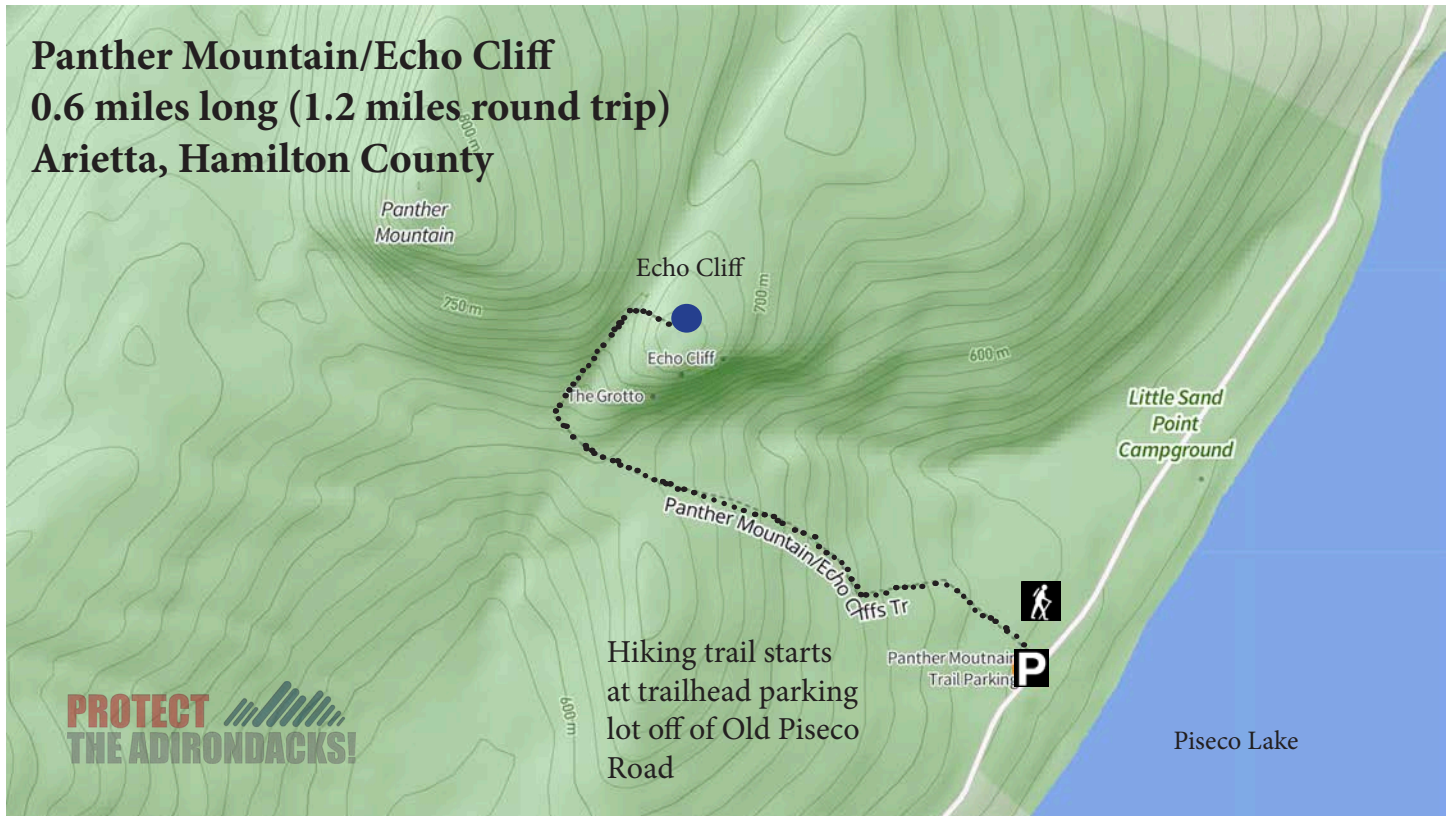


Panther Mountain/Echo Cliff



The Panther Mountain trail, also sometimes referred to as Echo Cliff, is a 0.6-mile steep hike to a set of cliffs that offer an excellent view of Piseco Lake and the surrounding landscape. The hike is popular, and the trail is worn and trampled. The trail is located entirely on the public Forest Preserve, on the southern edge of the West Canada Lakes Wilderness. The trailhead is accessed off of the Old Piseco Road on the north side of the lake, between the Little Sand Point and Point Comfort Campgrounds.

A local favorite due to its short distance and rewarding view, this trail is heavily used. The trail up Panther Mountain is particularly eroded, with myriad loose stones of varying sizes, and exposed bedrock in many areas.

The trail begins through beech-heavy mixed hardwood forest and slowly gains conifers as elevation increases. However, due to its relatively low elevation the summit does not harbor a holdout of true boreal forest like other higher Adirondack peaks do. There are many large rocks along the trail.



The first two-thirds climbs at a moderate slope before the remaining steeper final stretch to the summit. The top section of the trail has received some extensive trail work in the last few years to build waterbars and an extensive stone staircase.

The summit, Echo Cliff itself, is a sheer drop of several hundred feet. The view is impressive across Piseco Lake and farther to the south to ridges and forests of the Silver Lake Wilderness area. Overall this is an easy and rewarding hike. The hike down is the same as the hike up.

Help Protect the Forest Preserve and Be Prepared When You Hike: Please follow “carry in, carry out” rules for all trash and follow **Leave No Trace** principles when hiking in the public Forest Preserve and other wild areas. The 7 Leave No Trace principles are: 1) Plan ahead and prepare ; 2) Stay on hiking trails and camp at designated areas; 3) Dispose of human waste and trash properly; 4) Leave what you find; 5) Minimize campfires; 6) Respect wildlife; 7) Respect other hikers. **Educated and prepared hikers do not damage the environment or need search and rescue unless injured.**