

Bear Mountain

Bear Mountain
3 miles long (6 miles round trip)
Cranberry Lake, St. Lawrence County

The Route 3 trailhead for Bear Mountain is on the south side of the highway and marked “Cranberry Lake Wild Forest, Gilbert Tract Ski Trail Trailhead Parking.” The trailhead is just east of the Cranberry Lake Campground.



Base map courtesy of Adirondack Atlas

Bear Mountain is a small mountain above Cranberry Lake in the western Adirondacks. The trail is on public Forest Preserve and can either be accessed from Route 3, just east of the Cranberry Lake Campground, or at a trailhead within the Cranberry Lake Campground, which charges a day-use fee. This trail’s main destination is a rocky outcrop that provides a stunning view of Cranberry Lake and the Five Ponds Wilderness Area.

There are two options for approaches to Bear Mountain. The trail from the Route 3 trailhead is on the south side of the highway and marked “Cranberry Lake Wild Forest, Gilbert Tract Ski Trail Trailhead Parking.” This trail runs for 3 miles over



the forest summit of Bear Mountain to the rocky outcrop on the ridge's southern spine that overlooks Cranberry Lake.

The trail passes through mostly open hardwood forest. This trail is a popular Nordic ski trail in the winter. The trail is well worn and easy to follow. Cross through a trail junction and then follow the signs for the lean-to on the north side of Bear Mountain. The summit is not far from the lean-to, but is forested and does not provide a view. Continue downhill along the southern spine of Bear Mountain, approximately 0.5 miles to a viewpoint overlooking Cranberry Lake. The hike out runs along the same route as hiked in.

The second option to access the overlook over Cranberry Lake is much shorter, but requires a day use fee from the Cranberry Lake Campground. Follow signs in the campground to the trailhead.

Help Protect the Forest Preserve and Be Prepared When You Hike: Please follow “**carry in, carry out**” rules for all trash and follow other **Leave No Trace** principles when hiking in the public Forest Preserve and other wild areas. The seven 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.**