Hiking Trails

Hikers can choose from many one-day or multi-day hikes on 30 miles of the white-blazed Appalachian Trail and the blue-blazed side trails. A popular, though strenuous, day-hiking loop runs via the Fire Warden's Trail, Appalachian Trail, and Horns Pond Trail for a total of 12.3 miles. This loop includes several scenic vistas and, Old Man's Head, a point of interest just below Avery Peak on a southward spur off the AT.

Appalachian Trail (AT) (strenuous/difficult, 17.6 miles) traverses the seven peaks of the Bigelow Mountain range along 17.6 miles of this National Scenic Trail. This classic ridge walk includes significant elevation gain and loss. Eastern section is commonly referred to as the Little Bigelow Trail, a moderate to difficult route starting from Stratton Brook Pond Road, a series of peaks, plus wonderful views of the Bigelow Range. In addition there are 14.8 miles of blue-blazed side trails managed as part of the AT system. Access: East Flagstaff Road and Safford Brook Trailheads.

Finger Lakes (easy, 1.5 miles) is a short, water-source segment on the AT that provides easy access to the water sources.

Fire Warden's Trail (moderate to difficult, 4.6 miles) provides the shortest route to Avery Peak or West Peak from the south side of the Bigelow Range. Follow Safford Brook Road and another 0.4 mile east to the fork. Take the north fork (left) 0.3 miles up the Fire Warden's Trail. Moose Falls Campsite is located about 1 mile further up the Fire Warden's Trail. Shortly after the trail descends steeply for the last 0.7 mile until the Fire Warden's Trail ends at the AT. Access: Safford Brook Trailhead off Route 27.

Range Trail (moderate to difficult, 4.6 miles) begins at the western end of the Bigelow Range on a woodland trail, a gradual climb, begins at 1.5 miles along a side logging road and 0.5 miles along a road leading to CR470. Access: Currie Street off Route 16.

Safford Brook Trail (moderate to difficult, 2.2 miles) climbs gradually through forested lands crossing Safford Brook about 0.7 miles above East Flagstaff Road. The trail progressively steepens until it reaches a junction with the Appalachian Trail near Safford Brook, an area renowned for its "stone-house" boulders. Access: Safford Brook Trailhead off Long Falls Dam Road off Route 16.

The Approach Trail (easy, 1.5 miles) follows an old road for an easy 0.5 miles before reaching the summit of the first and connecting with Maine Huts & Trails routes. Access: Stratton Brook Pond Road off Route 27.

ATV & Snowmobile Trails

ATVs are prohibited within Bigelow Preserve. Shared-use roads provide access to ATV & snowmobiling, dirt bike riding, and mountain biking and are signed with the designated recreational use. Be prepared to encounter both pedestrians and vehicles. The Bureau does not encourage riding on frozen lakes because of potential hazards. For more information contact the Bureau’s Off-road Recreational Vehicle Office: (207) 287-4957. Within Maine Only: 1-800-462-1019.

Campsite Latitude/Longitude

Campsite Latitude/Longitude

Bigelow Preserve & Flagstaff Lake Public Lands

ATV & Snowmobile Trails

ATVs are prohibited within Bigelow Preserve. Shared-use roads provide access to ATV & snowmobiling, dirt bike riding, and mountain biking and are signed with the designated recreational use. Be prepared to encounter both pedestrians and vehicles. The Bureau does not encourage riding on frozen lakes because of potential hazards. For more information contact the Bureau’s Off-road Recreational Vehicle Office: (207) 287-4957. Within Maine Only: 1-800-462-1019.

Campsite Latitude/Longitude