

Seven Hills/HTS/Reeves Brook Trail Loop to Ramapo Torne and Torne View

Overview

This loop hike at the southern end of Harriman State Park leads to an expansive viewpoint from the summit of the Ramapo Torne.

Details Time: 3 hours Difficulty: Moderate Length: 5.2 miles

Driving Directions

Take N.J. Route 17 north to the New York State Thruway and take the first exit., Exit 15A (Sloatsburg). Turn left at the bottom of the ramp onto N.Y. Route 17 north, and continue through the Village of Sloatsburg. Just past the village, turn right at the traffic light, following the sign for Harriman State Park. Cross an overpass over railroad tracks and continue along the Seven Lakes Drive, passing under the Thruway overpass, and soon entering Harriman State Park. Proceed for another mile to the Reeves Meadow Visitor Center, on the right side of the road. Park in the Visitor Center's parking lot.

Description

On the southwest side of the parking lot (right when facing the woods), you will find the red-on-white blazes of the Pine Meadow Trail. Follow the Pine Meadow Trail as it heads southwest, parallel to Seven Lakes Drive. Soon, the trail bears left and heads uphill on a rocky path. After a short level stretch, you'll reach a junction where the Pine Meadow Trail turns right. You should turn left, leaving the Pine Meadow Trail, and follow the blue-on-white-blazed Seven Hills Trail, which begins here.

The Seven Hills Trail climbs steadily along a woods road. After crossing a stream, the trail briefly turns left onto another woods road, then turns right, leaving the road, and continues to ascend. Soon, the trail levels off, the footpath narrows, and you follow undulating terrain, with some short ups and downs. You'll also pass an interesting wetland to the right of the trail.

About a mile and a half from the start, you'll reach a T-intersection with a woods road. The orange-blazed Hillburn-Torne-Sebago (HTS) Trail begins to the right, but you should turn left to continue along the blue-on-white-blazed Seven Hills Trail, which begins a rather steep ascent. The grade soon moderates, then again steepens.

At the top of the ridge, the Seven Hills Trail reaches a junction with the orange-blazed HTS Trail. Turn right and follow the HTS Trail as it runs along the ridge of the Ramapo Torne, reaching its summit in about a third of a mile. Here, there is an expansive view to the south over Torne Valley and Hillburn, with the New York State Thruway visible below.

After spending some time enjoying the view, retrace your steps to the junction with the Seven Hills Trail. Now continue ahead, following the joint HTS/Seven Hills Trail along the ridge, blazed with both orange and blue-on-white blazes.

In 0.2 mile, at a high point on the ridge, the two trails split. Bear left and follow the blue-on-white blazes of the Seven Hills Trail, which descends steeply into a gully, then climbs back up to reach a western-facing viewpoint, known as Torne View. From here, the Ramapo Torne, which you just climbed, is visible to the left. The view from this vantage point is far more pristine than that from the Ramapo Torne!

Just beyond Torne View, you will reach a junction with the black-on-white-blazed Raccoon Brook Hills Trail, which begins to the right. Continue ahead, following the blue-on-white blazes of the Seven Hills Trail, which soon begins to descend.

After a short climb over a rise, the Seven Hills Trail descends to reach a junction with the white-blazed Reeves Brook Trail. Turn left, leaving the Seven Hills Trail, and follow the Reeves Brook Trail, which descends steadily on a winding footpath, steeply in places. In a little less than a mile, after passing a cascade in the brook, the Reeves Brook Trail bears right and joins a woods road, continuing to descend along Reeves Brook. When the Reeves Brook Trail ends at a junction with the red-on-white-blazed Pine Meadow Trail, turn left onto the Pine Meadow Trail and follow it a short distance back to the Reeves Meadow Visitor Center parking lot, where the hike began.