

Whiteside Mountain, NC

Whiteside Mountain (4,930 ft) Cashiers & Highlands, NC Short climb to spectacular views of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Directions to Trail-Head: From Cashiers NC, head west on US 64. The road climbs and after 6 miles there is a stunning view toward the east (left). The road then turns sharply to the right at the Jackson/Macon county line. Take the immediate left onto Whiteside Mountain Road. From Highlands NC, take US 64 east approximately 8 miles and bear right onto Whiteside Mountain Road. Once on Whiteside Mountain Road, travel 1 mile to the Whiteside Mountain Trail parking area (gravel) on the left (marked). Parking costs \$2 per car as of Winter 2010 via self pay kiosk.

Trail Summary: We prefer to do this loop hike counterclockwise, getting the climbing done in the first half mile. This portion climbs the back (north side) and can be steep though there are stairs to aid. After the ascent the trail turns towards the left (east) and begins to traverse along the top of the cliffs. Views are almost continuous for the next mile. The trail peaks out at the summit and continues along the cliff top until a concrete platform. At the platform there are excellent views back toward the cliff as well as toward the south. The trail then comes to an open area with excellent views to the north. From here hook to the left and follow the rough jeep trail to the parking lot in approximately 1 mile.



National Forest Service Map at Trailhead



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