

PANTHERTOWN EAST from COLD MOUNTAIN GAP TRAIL HEAD



DESCRIPTION: This hike features multiple scenic falls and, in spring, a nice array of wild flowers including pink lady slippers around Mother's Day. Because Panthertown is so richly laced with trails, there are many options and routes to destinations. (Keep alert for junctions with map in hand!) To repeat a preferred route, start near the front of the parking area (not the gate at the far end). Head down #482 Mac's Gap Trail. Take the #488 spur to Greenland Creek Falls. Return to Mac's and go on to Panthertown Valley Trail (PVT). In route, take the loop left #486 to Granny Burrell Falls lunch there, then continue on #449 to Frolictown Falls beyond. Reverse on Deep Gap Trail and PVT #474. Turn right on just before bridge to access Schoolhouse Falls. Return and cross the bridge. Then follow PVT back to the parking area. This route will total 8.1 mostly easy miles with modest climbs. Trails can be wet including possible barefoot stream crossings if levels are high.

CONSIDER THESE ALTERNATIVES

- 1) Short loop via Little Green #485 Tranquity Point for great vista after a tough climb.
- 2) Short loop via mostly easy Green Valley #484 and PVT #474
- 3) Longer loop via Big Green #487 and Great Wall #489 with spurs to dramatic wall after climb.
- 4) Instead of Great Wall, continue along Big Green summit with three spurs to overlooks.

DIRECTIONS: (GPS: 35.160369, -83.001283)
Gather, pool, and depart from KKEPA at 830AM. Go 28 mi N on SC130/NC281m, Jog right on US64/NC281 for 3 mi. When they separate, turn left to stay on 281 and continue about 1 mi to Fire Station and Cold Mtn Rd. Turn left onto Cold Mtn Rd and go 6 mi to signs on the left. Follow about 100 yds to parking and trail head. No fees or potties. Expect to return about 330P.

UPDATED May 2017

