

PANTHERTOWN SOUTH THREE FALLS, GREAT WALL, VISTAS, STREAMS, AND FLOWERS

DESCRIPTION: Panthertown, “the Yosemite of the East” deserves that appellation for its multiple, fast rising gneiss mountains, rock walls and stream filled valleys... home for some 20 named waterfalls. Linking this treasure is a spider’s web of dozens of interlaced trails...now better marked...but still deserving of extra caution at junctions with map in hand.

This route, starting from the Saltrock Trailhead heads downhill east on #474 and south on #490 to Wilderness and Frolictown Falls. Head east taking a right on the trail past Frolictown Falls. Then, keep right on #449 and cross Panthertown Creek...which in high water can require boots off. Right after the creek, take a right on the Great Wall Trail #489 for 1.6 miles. Left on the Big Green Mountain trail #487 uphill for 3/4 mile to the overlook on the left shortly past the summit. At this point you can either take a shortcut down a steep faint path, or you can backtrack to Granny Burrell Falls, a nice spot for lunch. Continue on the trail to Mac’s Gap Trail #482 where you will take a left across the creek then another left on Panthertown Valley Trail #474. Look for large groups of Pink Lady Slippers, in bloom around Mother’s Day. Take a right on the Salt Rock trail to the overlook and then back to the car.

DIRECTIONS:

(GPS: 35.165286, 83.049344)

Gather and pool separately from either KKEPA or Walhalla. Both groups depart at 830AM. Reassemble at Sloan Bridge Picnic Area (on SC107 just north of its Wigington Rd intersect) for a 9:15AM restart from there. We continue 9 mi north on 107, go right (E) onto US64 for 2 mi, then left (NW) another 2 mi on Cedar Creek Rd (SR1120), then right (NE) onto Breedlove Rd. Continue about 3.5 mi...including a final quarter mile on a gravel road... to the Salt Rock Trailhead, No fees or potties after Sloan. Expect to return about 3P.

UPDATED Oct 2018

