



Muddy Boots Hike: Fort Loudon Loop (Ridge Top Trail and Meadow Loop)

Monday - April 8th

Hike Description: Explore this 3.9-mile loop trail near Vonore. Generally considered a moderately challenging route, it takes an average of 1 hour and 29 minutes to complete. This is a popular trail for hiking, but you can still enjoy some solitude during quieter times of day.

Length of Hike: 3.9 miles for both Ridge Top Trail loop and Meadow loop combined. Shorter if you only hike Meadow Loop (2.5) or only Ridge Top Trail Loop (1.55) You can also add on Lost Shoe Loop (.5 miles)

Elevation range – 357 feet

Hike Leader: Jeri and Cam Weems 313-657-4235 jericam@hotmail.com

Rating: Moderate – some higher climbs and tree limb obstacles, but otherwise nice trail.

Meeting Location: We will **meet at 7:45 AM** at 100 Chota Road across from the Marathon gas station. There we will give a quick rundown of the hike and provide driving directions. Car pools will be worked out at this meeting. Wheels rolling at **8 AM sharp**. There is plenty of parking at the visitor center, so if you'd like to meet us there (especially if you are from Kahite) make sure to be ready to go by **8:25**. Bathrooms located in picnic area just around the corner from Visitor Center.

Location/Distance/Drive Time/Return time: Loudon State Park/14 miles/23 minutes/around 11:00 am.

Directions: Turn right on 444 and drive 3.6 miles; left on TN-72 and drive 6.0 miles; left on US-411 and drive 2.3 miles; right on SR-360 and drive .9 miles; left on Fort Loudon Road and drive 1.1 miles all the way to the Visitor Center parking lot at the end of Fort Loudon Road. Park in Visitor Center parking lot.

Be Prepared: Hiking boots, water, snacks, and hiking poles optional, but all are recommended. Hiking involves some exertion and often walking on uneven surfaces with rocks and roots. While we do our best to describe any trail challenges and conditions, you are hiking at your own risk.

In event of a situation requiring medical intervention during a hike, we suggest that each participant wear their name tag and bring a Photo ID (generally driver's license) and Medical Information cards (Health Insurance Card or Medicare & supplemental Health Insurance Cards).

Lunch: On your own.

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