

HOUSE MOUNTAIN TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS: From the parking area, a combination of four trails lead you to the mountaintop: the Connector Trail, West Overlook Trail, Mountain Trail, and Crest Trail.



Connector Trail (0.2 mile): The trek begins at the parking area with the Connector Trail. It starts beside the picnic tables as a wide dirt road. After 100 yards, you go through a clearing for power lines, back into the woods, across a boardwalk, and up a rocky section until you reach the main Trailhead Junction sign.

Split at Trailhead Junction: From the Trailhead Junction, hikers have two choices. You can go left to follow white blazes 0.8 mile on the West Overlook Trail or go right and follow blue blazes 1.0 mile on the Mountain Trail. Boy Scouts installed markers every quarter-mile to help you track your progress. Both trails end when they reach the Crest Trail that runs 1.5 mile across the top of House Mountain.

West Overlook Trail (0.8 mile): White blazes mark this shorter and steeper route to the top. It is rated difficult and takes you to the western end of the Crest Trail. You'll tackle a couple of steep switchbacks and encounter interesting rock walls on your way up. Do not take shortcuts through switchbacks. This causes serious erosion and damage to the trail. When you reach the top, large boulders at the West Overlook provide a perch to peer through the trees at the Cumberland and Great Smoky Mountains.

Mountain Trail (1.0 mile): Blue blazes mark this moderate-to-difficult trail. It ends when it hits the Crest Trail near the middle of the mountaintop. The overall climb up the Mountain Trail is more gradual than the West Overlook Trail, but is very steep and difficult the final 0.3 mile near the top. The Mountain Trail rewards you with unique rock formations and great views of the Smokies to the south. When you reach the top, there is a park bench to take a load off and catch your breath at the Crest Trail junction.

Crest Trail (1.5 mile): Red blazes mark the easy-to-moderate Crest Trail that runs 1.5 miles along the top of House Mountain. At elevations of more than 2,100 feet, you will hike through the woods, past large boulders, and come across several rocky clearings for a bird's-eye view of the countryside.

The Crest Trail measures 0.8 mile from the West Overlook to the Mountain Trail junction. Be sure to explore the remaining 0.7 mile of the trail to the East Overlook. This out-and-back section features arguably the best views on the entire mountain. Roughly halfway, the trail opens up to a dramatic rocky outcrop for a picturesque panorama of the valley and Cumberland Mountains. This is a popular destination for sunsets. Be sure to bring a flashlight or headlamp to hike down the mountain in the dark.

The Crest Trail borders private property on the north side of House Mountain. Stay on the marked trails and enjoy one of the best day-hikes in Tennessee, just a short drive from all the other attractions in Knox County.

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