



Favorite Hikes on the Finger Lakes Trail

Abbott Loop, Danby, Map M17 or AL

By Barbara Nussbaum

Type: Loop **Length:** 8.3 Miles **Rating:** strenuous **Terrain:** Difficult **Elevation gain/loss:** 1700 ft. **Comment:** in Danby State Forest near Ithaca

Recommended year round except during gun hunting season. Best not done after heavy rains, give these trails some time to run off unless you like hiking in streambeds.

Map: map M 17 or special Abbott Loop Trail map.

This hike includes a scenic overlook at Thatcher's Pinnacles (1,700 ft.) with picnic table which is the perfect lunch spot. The trail is entirely in Danby State Forest.

Start /End: Wide shoulder parking on Michigan Hollow Road where the Main Finger Lakes Trail crosses. This is about 2.4 miles south of Danby and NY Route 96 B.



View from the Thatcher Pinnacles



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From Michigan Hollow Road go northwest on the white blazed Main FLT/North Country Trail crossing the footbridge over Michigan Creek called Diane's Crossing. Turn left shortly after the creek crossing and follow the orange blazed trail through pines and old apple trees. Follow the trail mostly uphill, now in mature deciduous woods, cross a stream and reach Bald Hill Road. On the right side of the trail under the large maples are the remnants of two building foundations. Turn right and follow Bald Hill Road briefly. An interesting old cemetery is just a few yards further down on the left beyond the old road. Turn left and follow an old Road which starts level, but which climbs steeply to reach a summit (2 miles from the start), known as Thatcher's Pinnacles (1,700 ft.) with spectacular views of Inlet Valley and the hamlet of West Danby and fall blooming witch hazel. The trail continues mostly downhill through a spruce plantation, red pines and deciduous woods and crosses Bald Hill Road again (mile 3.0) descending further following the floor of Bald Glen between the two shallow streams that weave through the ravine. Turning right the trail crosses the creek and follows the ridge above the stream. Reach Michigan Hollow Road after 4.6 miles, about 4 miles south of NY Rt. 96B. Turn left (north) on Michigan Hollow Road, cross the creek on the road and pick up the orange blazed Abbott Loop Trail on the right (eastern side) of Michigan Hollow Road, opposite the wide shoulder parking spot. Cross a rocky ravine and begin a steep ascent. The trail reaches Hill Road (south) after 5.5 miles from the start. Turn right on the road. The trail leaves the road on the left and crosses a creek (6.1 miles). The orange blazed trail ends after 6.6 miles at a junction with the white blazed main FLT. Turn left, cross an old beaver dam on puncheons and start uphill to Hill Road. Cross Hill Road (north) (6.8 miles). Cross a stream on a footbridge and reach Smiley Hill Road. Cross the road and another footbridge. Reach Michigan Hollow Road after 8.3 miles.



Along the trail