

Five Day Art Loeb Relaxed Backpacking Trip

starting from \$1,090.00 per hiker

This trip centers around the famous Art Loeb Trail. Our pace for this hike is centered around those who like to take it easy on the trail. The Art Loeb offers iconic mountain vistas, cascading creeks, lush greenery, berry fields, wild flowers, and a plethora of other flora and fauna. The Art Loeb trail is steeped in history ranging from civil war love stories, to extensive logging at the turn of the century offering bald mountain vistas, and lore ranging as far back as the Cherokee Natives. This is a customer and guide favorite as it offers so many different views, scenery, history, and wildlife. Our CEO and Founder is often found out here backpacking with his college buddies and family. When asked why they continue to hike the Art Loeb it's a unanimous consensus, the views never disappoint and there are so many places left to explore along the trail.

Itinerary:

Day One:

On the first day we will hike in along cascading creeks, lush greenery, and rewarding views. On the first night we will be camping in the remote Shining Rock Wilderness! Night one will be spent here camping along the trail, exact location depending on if the team decides to summit Cold Mountain, with a backcountry meal prepared by the guide (or chef see below). Ideally speaking we will push to Shining Rock and camp around there for night one. If we do this and all the conditions work out perfectly you can expect an epic sunset.

Day Two:

Day two we will enjoy a spectacular sunrise (weather depending), eat breakfast, break camp, and hike onwards to the day's destination or Black Balsam where we will be setting up camp and enjoying one of the most breath-taking views the Blue Ridge Mountain has to offer. Day two is a short day with an emphasis on learning and letting your body recoup after your first day on the trail.

Day Three:

Following one of the most epic sunrises you have ever experienced, day three will take us out of the high elevation mountains and back into the forest. We will shoot for a campsite that offers shelters and this will be the only time we may have that "luxury" the entire trip. We will make camp in this area, enjoy dinner, and settle in for a refreshing night's sleep as the miles start to build up. Along the way we will get to explore Pilot Mountain, its panoramic views, and the amazing Flora along the trail in this lower altitude ecological system.

Day Four:

Day four we will be pushing onwards to the valley floor. Depending on group agility and conditions we may even make the trek to Cat Gap. Along the way we will get to explore Pilot Mountain and the views it has to offer of the amazing mountain face we just hiked down, coming

from the highlands. There is another shelter at the bottom of the Cat Gap area we may choose to utilize if it isn't already full and choose to not push onwards.

Day Five:

Day five will find us poised for the final push down the Art Loeb. Along the way we will experience sweeping cliff faces, mountain views, babbling brooks and the Davidson river! If the weather is right local tradition dictates a jump in the river to get that trail funk off!

In addition to your guide, this price includes essential backpacking gear for the trip, all on-trail food, and any necessary backcountry permits. It does not include gratuity for your guide.

Features:

Shining Rock Summit

Mountain Vistas

Swimming Holes

Cascading Waterfalls

Rocky Crags and Cliffs

Sunset and Sunrises

Guided Backpack Trip

Backcountry Meals prepared for you by the guide (Professional chef on staff for additional fee)

Seasonal opportunities such as Berry picking and Fall color

Difficulty: ⅜

Solitude: ⅜

Time: Five Days, Four Nights

Distance: 7-9 miles per day (average) 30 miles total
option to summit Cold Mountain adding 3 miles

What's included:

- A friendly, professional, knowledgeable wilderness guide with your best interests in mind.
- A commitment to make the experience as exciting, challenging, informative and enjoyable as possible.
- Essential Backpacking Gear
- Three meals a day
- Snacks

- Instant Coffee every morning
- Powdered Sports Drinks
- Guide carries emergency communication gear and a cell phone at all times.