

Baldy Mountain & Lake Trail

Plains, Sanders County, Montana

The Baldy Mountain and Lake trail is an intermediate hike approximately 2-3 miles long. It is a rough road to get to the trail head though, so make sure you have 4-wheel drive. The road is narrow, rocky and bumpy for about 3.5 miles before the trail head. The trail head is located about 15 miles North of Plains, MT. Once you get on the trail it's a consistent uphill hike. Although it is not very steep, it does get rockier the closer to the top you get, make sure you watch your step.

When you reach the top of Baldy Mountain, you can approach the foundation of the old lookout. Just beyond the lookout foundation, you will see your first glimpse of the basin which holds Baldy Lake. A few hundred feet away, you will be able to see the lake. The trail will go downhill from here.

"We went up there July 3, 2011 and only got about 200ft down the other side of Baldy Mountain when we ran into about 3-4 feet of snow, we couldn't even attempt to get to Baldy Lake." Jubilee Anderson stated. "I wouldn't recommend this hike for horses, elderly or small children as you really have to watch your step on the shale rock trail."

*These photos were taken July 2011 of the trail, the lookout and Baldy Lake.



Directions from Plains, MT: Take Upper Lynch Crk Rd (paved road). Go left onto Cedar Crk Rd (forest road 1025) which is a dirt road. Stay on this road until it forks and you see a forest road 886 sign, it will be to the left. Follow this road (it's narrow and very rough) for about 3.5 miles. Just follow the road to the very end, the Baldy Mountain & Lake trail head starts here.

NOTE OF CAUTION: Sanders County, like all of Montana, is home to bear, mountain lion, elk, deer, moose, and a large variety of smaller animals and birds. We suggest taking proper precautions when exploring our many trails and back roads. Carry bear spray or legal firearm. Always prepare for quick changing weather, pack in layers, wear proper shoes and remember to drink plenty of water. And as always pack out what you bring in and leave not trace.



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*Photos and information kindly
contributed to
Tour 200 by Jubilee Anderson,
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