

Pitchoff Mountain's "Balanced Rocks" (about 1.5 miles one way)

Follow route 73 from Lake Placid; watch for "Whispering Pines" campground on your left. The parking for the trailhead is along the right side of the highway, about 2 km east of this campground (which has a little store if you need drinks). Look for small brown signposts: on the right side is one pointing to Cascade Mt, a rather ambitious one for adults let alone kids. Look on the opposite side of the highway for the steps and signpost for Pitchoff Mt. Ascend these steps; sign in the register (and sign out at the end). There's a moderately steep ascent for about a quarter mile, then the trail levels out for almost a mile. There are a couple of overlooks on your right as you travel along this stretch. The trail then descends into a small wet spot, then begins a **steep climb** lasting about a quarter mile or so (over rocks, roots, and MUD - slippery). When the ascent finally levels out, in an open wooded area (giving Tolkein fans a glimpse of Mordor or Fangorn), look for a trail angling back to the right (at about one's 4 o'clock): take this unmarked path through the brush out onto the open rocks to the two huge rocks. When you get back down, go to the lovely picnic area just down the highway between the two Cascade lakes.

