Echo Lake State Park

Park Information

Echo Lake State Park is nestled in the shadow of White Horse Ledge on the outskirts of North Conway. At the lake is a bathhouse, swimming, and picnic tables. A mile-long auto road leads to the top of nearby 700-foot Cathedral Ledge. Both White Horse Ledge and Cathedral Ledge have gradual slopes up their western flanks, with sheer drops of bare rock, scraped clean by former glaciers, to the east.

The park is open weekends starting Memorial Day and daily from late June to Labor Day. Park hours are 9:00 am to 6:00 pm with gates closing at 8:00 pm. No camping is allowed at Echo Lake State Park but camping is available at two other state parks in the area.

Park History

In 1899 twenty two visitors and residents from Center Conway to Jackson raised $1000 and bought the land Cathedral Ledge is on. A year later the same was done for White Horse Ledge. The property was then deeded to the state.

In 1943 commercial development was planned for the lake. The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests joined with the state to raise funds to buy the property, thus protecting it.

Today Cathedral, White Horse, and Echo Lake lie within the boundaries and jurisdiction of Echo Lake State Park.

Trail Information

A scenic trail around the lake gives magnificent views of both ledges. At the top the view faces eastward across Saco River Valley to the White Mountains. Both ledges can also be reached by hiking trails. Experienced rock climbers ascend the naked rock face and rappel down into the valley. Winter mountaineering techniques are practiced in season.

Around the lake........................................................................................................................................1 mile
Bryce Path to top of Cathedral....................................................................................................................1.2 miles
White Horse ledge loop..............................................................................................................................4.2 miles

Please Note: All state park trails are blazed in yellow. Red and blue blazes are boundary markers and are not state maintained trails.

Other State Parks in the Area

• White Lake State Park | Route 16 | Tamworth, NH | 603.323.7350
• Crawford Notch State Park | US Route 302 | Harts Location, NH | 603.374.2272