



## **SUGGESTED HIKING ROUTES ON-SITE:**

### **Lower Meadow loop:**

Length: 1.6 miles                      Elevation: 1,065'  
Difficulty: Easy                        Elevation gain: 273'

Innstead's Lower Meadow Loop showcases some of the most spectacular views that these 2,000 acres have to offer. After a modestly inclined 0.3-mile start, you'll be greatly rewarded by looking north toward the Benton Range's dramatic features, including Hogsback Ridge, Black Mountain, and Sugarloaf Mountain. This loop is rich with countless apple trees and open meadows, making it the ideal choice for early morning wildlife viewing.

Starting from the Innstead gate on the Joan Wolter Trail: Ascend 0.3 miles and turn Left onto Yahoo Cutoff, continue 0.25 miles on "The Straightaway" and turn Left onto Yahoo, continue 0.4 miles and turn Left onto Lower Becket, continue 0.5 miles and take a Right onto Joan Wolter Trail for a final, 0.2-mile descent back to your starting point.

### **Turkey-Tree Meadow loop:**

Length: 1.9 miles                      Elevation: 1,217'  
Difficulty: Easy                        Elevation gain: 430'

To stroll through Turkey Tree Meadow is to be reminded that there exists another world, another perspective that awaits you, patiently, while you toil away at your day to day. From the top boundary of Turkey Tree, find yourself at home amongst scattered, towering pines and birches, and a nascent apple orchard that combine to provide a playground for a wide variety of wildlife species. The open fields that descend from this point invite you to follow right to the rocky ledges and peaks of the Benton Range that rise in the background. Taken as a 0.9 mile out-and-back or as the loop outlined below, Turkey Tree Meadow will stay with you.

Starting from the Innstead gate on the Joan Wolter Trail: Ascend 0.45 miles to where the Joan Wolter Trail meets the O'Brien Trail in the southwest corner of Turkey Tree Meadow. The O'Brien trail traverses the top, southern boundary of the meadow for 0.15 miles until finding the start of Yahoo. Descend Yahoo for 0.6 miles until taking a Left turn onto Lower Becket. Follow Lower Becket for 0.5 miles until taking a Right turn onto Joan Wolter Trail. Finally, descend 0.2 miles on Joan Wolter trail back to your starting point.

## **Warrior Cabin loop:**

Length: 4.1 miles                      Elevation: 1,486'  
Difficulty: Moderate                  Elevation gain: 665'

Middle Cabin, also known as The Warrior Cabin, is yet another hidden gem to be discovered on the Innstead Trail Network. Pop in to warm your toes on a cold winter day or to enjoy a picnic lunch with unobstructed views of Owl's Head and the beautifully dramatic Benton Range from the cabin's private back deck. En route, you'll enjoy some of the most blissful meadows and mountain views that this region has to offer.

There are several ways to arrive at and return from The Warrior Cabin from your lodging. Here's a personal favorite, Starting from the Innstead gate on the Joan Wolter Trail:

There - Ascend 0.3 miles and turn Left onto Yahoo Cutoff, continue 0.25 miles on "The Straightaway" and turn Left onto Yahoo, continue 0.15 miles and turn Right onto Upper Becket, continue 0.35 miles and turn Right onto John Wolter Trail, ascend a final 0.75 miles to Warrior Cabin.

Back - The O'Brien Trail departs from the Warrior Cabin field. Stay on the O'Brien trail for 1.3 miles, following blue arrows to where this trail intersects the Joan Wolter Trail and its yellow arrows at the top of Turkey Tree Meadow. From this juncture, descend the Joan Wolter Trail for 0.7 miles, following yellow arrows back to your starting point.

## **Iron Mountain Summit loop:**

Length: 4.8 miles                      Elevation: 2,052'  
Difficulty: Moderate to Difficult      Elevation gain: 1,248'

There - Ascend 0.3 miles and turn Left onto Yahoo Cutoff, continue 0.25 miles on "The Straightaway" and turn Left onto Yahoo, continue 0.15 miles and turn Right onto Upper Becket, continue 0.35 miles and turn Right onto John Wolter Trail, ascend a final 0.75 miles to Middle Cabin. From Middle Cabin, continue 1.2 miles on the John Wolter Trail to Upper Cabin, a.k.a. The Shire Cabin. Follow the John Wolter Trail 's red arrows another 50 yards up behind the cabin to the summit of Iron Mountain.

Back - Notice that red arrows turn to yellow as you begin to descend the other side of Iron Mountain's summit. You are now on the Joan Wolter Trail, which will lead each step of the 1.75 miles back to your starting point and the comfort of your cabin at The Innstead.