

Snowdon Peak NE Ridge Route

From Summit Post

At the Andrews lake parking area, go on the trail that follows the periphery of the lake. You can go in either direction but going to the right (west/south) side of the lake may be shorter. Leave the peripheral trail and get on the trail to Crater Lake. This trail makes many switchbacks going up a pine forest. After 1.1 miles, you will reach a relatively flat area. Depending on the season, two ponds may be seen here. I did not see any signs but there was a well-established



1 Meadow



2 Couloir

trail that branched off the Crater Lake Trail at a 90-degree angle. Make a left turn onto this trail. You will note a big meadow with a great view of Snowdon.

The trail crosses the meadow and goes into another growth of pine trees. You will now be close to the northwest face of Snowdon. Naked Lady Couloir will also be well visible.



As you get near the tree line, you will note a steep grassy slope that goes up to a 12,340 ft. saddle between Snowdon and Point 12628 ft. The trail sometimes makes switchbacks and at other times goes directly up this steep slope.



At the 12,340 ft. saddle, I turned south and followed the crest of a rocky ridge over a small high point to reach a flat area at the base of the peak (To avoid hiking the crest of the rocky area, you could follow a beaten path just below the crest of the ridgeline on the west side of it).

You can now hike up the rocky northeast ridgeline of Snowdon Peak.

As you get close to the summit, the going becomes more difficult.

Cairns lead you to the east of the crest of the ridgeline and then up steep rocky slopes on the east side to reach the summit. There is significant exposure here but in my opinion the climbing does not exceed Class III (what may be no big deal to one person, may appear as a very difficult and dangerous climb to another, this last part is a real "climb" and not a hike, use your judgement).

The summit of Snowdon Peak is large and flat. It gives you great views of the nearby mountains. The most dramatic site in my opinion, is that of The Needles.



3 Crest of Ridgeline.







4 The Needles from the Summit of Snowdon Peak