

# **Bilger's Rocks Walking Tour**

You are looking at a landmark known as Bilger's Rocks. It was formed 300 million years ago during the Pennsylvania Period in the Paleozoic Era.

There are many passages throughout the rocks with vertical walls 15 to 25 feet high, from 15 inches to 3 feet wide, and up to 50 feet long.

The sighting of snakes is rare here at the rocks because of the cold temperature and dampness.

The white arrows represent the easiest way through the rocks. The blue arrows represent narrow passages. These passages are harder to travel and may require crawling.

## **#1 Map of the World and Lady's Head**

The carving of the world was cut by John W. Larson, a native of Grampian, sometime from 1919 to 1921, after World War I. On the left side of the carving you can make out a crying lady and a man's head underneath her. It is supposed to represent the world looking to our country in a time of war. Mr. Larson returned to Bilger's Rocks in the mid-forties to touch up the original carving.

The lady's head on the rock below the carving of the world is a silhouette of a lonely Wolf; it was carved by her husband in 1962 after she died in surgery.

## **#2 Hand**

Above the #2 marker you can see a carving of a hand with some fingers missing pointing to your right. Most people believe that it was also carved by John Larson.

## **#3 Vegetation**

The large bushes behind the marker are rhododendron. The light green plants on the rocks are called lichens (algae and fungi). The dark green plants are mosses. Note the abundant growth of ferns on top of the rocks.

## **#4 Lion**

As you follow the white arrows you come to a large room-like structure. You will have to go to your left a few feet to see the #4 marker. Facing #4, you can see a solitary stone with a lion carved in it. The lion has been badly vandalized but you can still see some of its features. The creator of this carving is unknown.

## **#5 Devil's Dining Room**

The large room-like feature where you are now is called the Devil's Dining Room. At the far end, you have the option of going to the right and continuing on the main trail or squeezing through the corridor on the left which leads to the Devil's Dungeon and Devil's Kitchen. If you go to the den and kitchen, you will eventually have to backtrack to the dining room.

## **#6 Cross-bedding**

The visible lines in the rock are called cross-bedding. These features are a result of the deposition of sediments in an ancient stream bottom.

## **#7 Natural Rock**

The rocks in this area are in their natural state devoid of man's crudely painted handiwork. As citizens of the world who are becoming more environmentally aware, we would hope that we could keep the rocks in this state so that future generations can enjoy the natural beauty of this spot.

## **#8 Ice Cave**

This cave is very narrow and dark. Do not enter without a flashlight or if you feel you are too large to fit through the passage. This cave is called the ice cave because if the winter has been cold, people have gone into the cave in July and found patches of ice. The bottom of the cave is covered with water, which makes it very slippery.

## **#9 Top of the Rocks**

The #9 post can be found beneath a mountain laurel shrub. This beautiful plant is our state flower. From the vantage point you can see across the broad expanse of the top of the rocks. We invite you to explore up here among the eastern hemlock trees. Be careful as you proceed across this area because of crevices with depths of up to 25 feet.

## **#10 Indian's Head**

When you find the #10 marker you will see a large rock to the left with an Indian's head carved on it; this carving was made in 1949 by Ralph Mahlon. His initials are above the head. On the way to the parking lot, notice the large white pine trees, this variety of tree was once cut down to be used as masts in wooden sailing ships.

**For more information on the rocks or to send a donation to help care for the rocks write to:**

Bilger's Rocks Association  
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