

## Cumberland Trail North: Rainbow Lake to Suck Creek Road – Signal Mountain

This section of the Cumberland Trail starts at Rainbow Lake, which can be reached either from Signal Point, or by a shorter route from the trailhead in Ohio Avenue. This trail is for serious walkers, as it is approximately 6.1 miles long and climbs steeply in two areas. From Rainbow Lake, the trail climbs onto the plateau and then remains fairly level past Lockhart's Arch, Edwards Point and Mushroom Rock. It then dips into the valley of North Suck Creek, which it crosses by a swing bridge, then climbs over a ridge, and back down again to the trailhead on Suck Creek Road. When walked in the other direction, there is just as much climbing, but at different points in the walk! Confusingly, the name "Edwards Point" is given both to a small community in the middle of the plateau, and to an actual "point" on the trail (photo), where there is an excellent view over the river and towards Chattanooga - however, it is high and unfenced, and thus potentially dangerous. Lockhart's Arch is a stone formation with a hole through it, and Mushroom Rock is a tall pillar with a large capstone. I thank Colin Williams for his help in mapping this trail.

**Directions:** to start from Rainbow Lake, follow the instructions to Rainbow Lake and Bee Branch Trail or Cumberland Trail South: Signal Point to Rainbow Lake. To start at the other end, follow Suck Creek Road (TN 27) about a mile above the bridge over Suck Creek, and look for a "Trail Crossing" sign. The trailhead is close to this sign, on the right, where a bridge crosses the creek, but it cannot be seen from the road. There is no "proper" parking area near the trailhead, although some people park on the shoulder. There is a better parking area further up the hill.

### Approximate distances:

Swing bridge at Rainbow Lake to Lockhart's Arch	0.2 miles
Lockhart's Arch to Edwards Point	1.0 miles
Edwards Point to Mushroom Rock	3.2 miles
Mushroom Rock to Swing bridge over North Suck Creek	0.4 miles
Swing bridge over North Suck Creek to Trailhead on Suck Creek Road	1.3 miles

### Coordinates:

Swing bridge at Rainbow Lake	N35° 7.82' W85° 21.67'
Lockhart's Arch	N35° 7.72' W85° 21.87'
Edwards Point	N35° 7.40' W85° 22.63'
Mushroom Rock	N35° 9.66' W85° 23.22'
Swing bridge over North Suck Creek	N35° 9.69' W85° 23.47'
Trailhead on Suck Creek Road	N35° 9.15' W85° 23.65'

### Map corners:

Top left	N35° 9.84' W85° 23.81'
Top right	N35° 9.81' W85° 21.30'
Bottom left	N35° 7.38' W85° 23.86'
Bottom right	N35° 7.35' W85° 21.35'

