

Smith Mountain Lake State Park  
5/10 KILOMETER YEAR-ROUND WALK EVENTS  
BOTH RATED 2C

**START/FINISH POINT:** Discovery Center, Interpretive Road, Smith Mountain Lake Park, Huddleston, VA. GPS: 37.07929, -79.61586

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS:** From Roanoke, Virginia, take Virginia Route 24 east for 20 miles to Route 801. Right on 801 for 3 miles. Right on 122-South for 3 miles. Left on 608 for 6 miles. After 2 miles (near the southern end of Route 626), turn right at State Park Road, Route 888 to enter Smith Mountain Lake State Park. Proceed about a quarter of a mile to the Visitor Center on the right at 1235 State Park Road, Huddleston VA. Latitude 37.09149, Longitude -79.59289. Stop at the Visitor Center and pay a \$7 parking fee. If there is no staff to take your fee, use the self-pay envelope. From Visitor Center, drive down Interpretive Trail Road to the far end, to the Discovery Center and the starting trailhead.

**RESTROOMS:** In the Visitor Center and the Discovery Center, if open.

**SPECIAL PROGRAMS:**

Virginia County Program - Bedford County

**WALK COMPLETION AND CREDIT:** Be sure to log back into the OSB system to finish/complete your online registration after doing the event. The OSB system does not deduct any event fee from a participant's Event Bank until they have submitted event completion info including the event was walked, the distance walked, and the selection of applicable special programs that person is participating in. (Nevertheless, a fee of \$2 for a downloaded PDF is deducted from the user's Event Bank when the PDF is downloaded. Later, any PDF fees are credited back to a user's Event Bank when he/she submits the event completion info as a paying for credit participant. Note, however, the \$2 coupon for the downloaded PDF will expire in 60 days.)

**CONTACTS:** In case of Emergencies, dial 9-1-1. For event-related assistance or to make comments regarding these directions, contact the P.O.C., Ron Jones, [outdoorsy\\_guy1@yahoo.com](mailto:outdoorsy_guy1@yahoo.com), 703-217-3140 (mobile).

**These maps and directions may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.**

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VIRGINIA VAGABONDS  
Smith Mountain Lake State Park  
5/10 KM Directions  
December 1, 2022

This walk qualifies for: Virginia Counties - Bedford County

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Start point: Discovery Center, Smith Mountain Lake State Park,. Latitude 37.0796, Longitude -79.611. From Visitor Center, drive down Interpretive Trail Road to the far end, to the Discovery Center.

**10-kilometer walking directions:**

1. Facing Discovery Center, go left thru covered picnic table area (left side of building) to gravel path.
2. Cross the gravel path and walk straight downhill thru the grass to the birdhouses (White at top of pole).
3. At the birdhouses, continue straight downhill thru the grass toward the lake and bench.
4. At the bench, turn right on the Lakeview Trail (yellow blazes).
5. Follow the grassy trail as it bears right, keeping the lake to your left.
6. Continue straight on the dirt trail (yellow blaze). Pass a bench on the left. In about 100 feet, ignore the trail on the right. Continue along the shoreline, keeping the lake to your left.
7. Follow path until you see the Osprey Nest on your left. Eventually the path turns right and goes uphill.
8. On your right, ignore the path with the footbridge. Continue uphill.
9. At the building (Discovery Center), restrooms are located on the right side. Pass restrooms and follow sidewalk to the road.
10. Turn right on the sidewalk at the road and follow to gravel path (by the playground).
11. Turn right on the gravel path.
12. Turn left to leave the path and walk to the birdhouses. You were here at the beginning of the walk.
13. At the birdhouses, continue straight down the hill toward the lake and the bench.
14. At the bench, turn left and walk toward the pathway in front of you.

*After a short distance, you will be able to see a water tower across the lake.*

15. Just past the picnic table, walk to the information sign on the right (just after the birdhouse, and at a T-intersection).
16. From the information sign, continue straight on the Tobacco Run Trail (Blue blazes).
17. At the Y-intersection turn left, walking uphill toward the log building. DO NOT go to the bench by the water.
18. Cross the road (1 km) and walk toward the wooden structure (Tobacco Barn) and the blue Tobacco Run Trail sign. (Signpost still there but blue sign now missing)
19. Turn right on the Tobacco Run Trail.
20. Walk down the steps and follow path along the water.
21. At the trail post, just before bench on the left and the road, turn left on the Opossum Trot Trail (Light Blue Blaze). You will be walking between the wooden rail and the water for a short distance and then entering the woods.
22. At the junction with the Turtle Island Trail (Green blazes), turn left. While on the Turtle Island Trail, ignore all trails going off to the left. **1.97 km at the first trail to the left**
23. Where the trail goes straight and a trail goes off to the right, continue straight. You will come back to this point after you walk around the island.
24. Cross the footbridge onto Turtle Island.
25. At the trail split across the bridge, bear right.
26. Continue walking around the island, keeping the water to your immediate right. At all trail intersections, bear right.
27. When you get back to the footbridge, turn right and cross the footbridge. **3 km at the benches on the right after you cross the footbridge**
28. At the first trail junction to the left, turn left. You will still be on Turtle Island Trail (no sign at this point).
29. At the trail junction for Striper Cove Trail, continue straight on the Turtle Island Trail (green blaze).
30. At the junction, bear left. If you look to the right you can see the Wildlife Observation Blind.
31. At the trail junction sign (picnic tables), turn left.
32. Cross the parking lot and road, using the crosswalk.

## **5 and 10 KILOMETER TRAILS**

**SPLIT:** 5-kilometer walkers continue straight on the Chestnut Ridge Trail (red blazes). Turn right on the Beaver Den Trail and pick up 10-kilometer direction number 50 (at “paralleling the road for a while”). 10 -kilometer walkers, continue with direction 33.

33. Reverse your direction crossing the road, using the crosswalk and return to the Turtle Island Trail. **4 km**

34. After a short distance, turn right on the Turtle Island Trail (green blazes).

35. At the split bear right staying on the Turtle Island Trail. You can see the Wildlife Observation Blind off to your left.

36. At the trail junction for Striper Cove Trail, continue straight on the Turtle Island Trail (green blaze).

**37.** At the T-intersection, turn left. DO NOT go toward the footbridge to the island. **5 km**

38. At the next two right trail junctions, bear left staying on the Turtle Island Trail.

39. At the Opossum Trail junction to the right, continue straight on the Turtle Island Trail.

40. At the trail junction (to the left - picnic table) where you started, turn right to the parking lot. **6 km**

41. Cross the parking lot and road, using the crosswalk.

42. Continue straight on the Chestnut Ridge Trail (red blazes).

43. At the Y-intersection, bear right, staying on the Chestnut Ridge Trail.

44. At the Beaver Den Trail, continue straight on the Chestnut Ridge Trail.

45. At the T-intersection, turn right, staying on the Chestnut Ridge trail.

46. At the Y-intersection, bear right, keeping the lake to your right. **7.2 km**

47. At the trail intersection from the left, bear right.

48. At the trail junction, continue straight on the Chestnut Ridge Trail. **8.03 km**

49. At the Buck Run Trail, bear left on the Chestnut Ridge Trail.

50. At the next trail junction, turn left and almost immediately right on the Beaver Den Trail. You will be paralleling the road for a while.

51. At the clearing by the lake, bear right and walk up the hill. **9 km**

52. At the road, turn left and walk on the left shoulder of the road.

53. At the crosswalk, bear left on the Tobacco Run Trail (no sign - blue blazes).
54. At the trail intersection, turn left.
55. Walk to the second bench at the end of the peninsula and enjoy the view.
56. Reverse your direction and continue back up the trail you just walked down.
57. At the cross trails, continue straight.
58. At the road, turn left, walking on the left shoulder.
59. At the Y-intersection, bear right and walk toward the Discovery Center.

## **5 and 10 KILOMETER TRAILS**

**SPLIT:** 5 - kilometer walkers continue straight to the start/finish at the picnic

tables at the Discovery Center. 10-kilometer walkers, continue with direction 60.

60. At the "Amphitheater" sign, turn right on the gravel road.
61. At the junction with the paved sidewalk, continue on the sidewalk to the right to the amphitheater.
62. At the amphitheater, reverse your direction, walking on the sidewalk to the gravel road.
63. Continue on the sidewalk until you reach the parking spaces by the road.
64. At the paved road, turn right and return to the start/finish at the picnic tables at the Discovery Center.



