

# D. L. Anderson

P h o t o g r a p h y

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## Angels Rest

*This ancient basalt dike protrudes into the Columbia River Gorge and, at 1500 feet above the river, offers spectacular views up and down the gorge. From this vista you can imagine the series of immense floods, the largest ever recorded, that helped carve the gorge some 15,000 years ago during the last ice age.*

### Directions

From Portland travel east 28 miles on I-84 and take exit 28 (Bridal Veil). Follow the road for  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile to the junction of the Columbia River Scenic Highway and the parking lot for the Angels Rest trail. From Hood River travel west 26 miles on I-84 to exit 35 and turn left onto the Columbia River Scenic Highway. Follow the scenic highway  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the Angels Rest Trailhead and parking lot.

### The Trail

The trailhead is well marked and begins at the eastern end of the parking lot across the Columbia Gorge Scenic Highway. The first portion of the trail climbs through a typical second growth Douglas fir forest with a moderately thick undergrowth of vine maple and ferns. The trail soon joins the ridgeline created by Coopey Creek and after  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile you get your first glimpse of the 100 ft Coopey Falls.

A few white trilliums can be found in the early spring followed later in the year by larkspur, and wild Oregon Iris.

The trail crosses Coopey Creek just above the falls and begins several long switchbacks as it leaves the creek and begins climbing the ridge. After another  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile the trail begins to open up as it passes through the site of a forest fire that passed through the area in 1991. The trail works its way through a small scree field below the bluff and up to the ridge crest where the trail forks. The right fork continues on to join the Columbia River Gorge Trail system where another  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles brings you to Wahkeena Falls or 3 miles brings you to Devils Rest. The left fork follows the rocky ridgeline a few hundred feet to the flat basalt bluff of Angels Rest.

The roughly marked trail on top of the bluff makes a short loop around the perimeter. The bluff is covered in a thick growth of vine maple with numerous "unofficial" trails cutting back and forth. Along the edge spectacular views up and down the river include Beacon Rock, Crown Point, and Roster Rock.

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*Photographing the Natural Pacific Northwest*

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