



2014

Where to Go Camping Guide

Daniel Boone Council, BSA

**Distributed by Tsali Lodge,
Order of the Arrow**



2014 Where to Go Camping Guide

A Troop's Guide to the Outdoors

Presented by Tsali Lodge #134

January 1, 2014

Created by Mark Birdsong in 2006

2014 Revision by Travis Broadhurst

Table of Contents	
<p style="text-align: center;">Section I</p> <p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Table of Contents • Introduction • Why should we go Camping? • Hiking Safety • Order of the Arrow • What's been added 	<p style="text-align: center;">Section VI</p> <p>Other Hiking Trails</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appalachian Trail • Catawba Falls • Cheoah Bald • Grandfather Mountain • Foothills Trail • Linville Gorge • Mountains-to-Sea Trail • Roan Mountain • Shortoff Mountain
<p style="text-align: center;">Section II</p> <p>BSA Camps & High Adventure Bases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camp Daniel Boone • Other Area Camps • National High Adventure Bases 	<p style="text-align: center;">Section VII</p> <p>National Parks and Seashores</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue Ridge Parkway • Great Smokey Mountains • Cape Hatteras National Seashore
<p style="text-align: center;">Section III</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pisgah National Forest</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Section VIII</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Forms and Permits</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Section IV</p> <p>Other National Forests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nantahala • Uwharrie • Croatan 	<p style="text-align: center;">Section IX – Other Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other Camping opportunities • Military Bases • Reference Websites • Books
<p style="text-align: center;">Section V</p> <p style="text-align: center;">State Parks and Forests</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Section X(NEW)- Lakes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lake Jocassee • Lake James

Dear Scouters,

Camping is the very heart of the scouting program, and one of the foremost objectives of the Order of the Arrow is to promote camping. For this reason, Tsali Lodge proudly presents the 2014 edition of the *Where to go Camping Guide*. This guide is made for all Daniel Boone Council Units to find new and exiting places to camp throughout North Carolina. Also included are various Costal Adventure and National High Adventure Bases. Whether you're just reserving a one-night campsite or planning to hike the Mountains-to-Sea trail, we hope to give you as much contact information as we can.

Many things in this guide refer to internet sites. An electronic version of this guidebook is available at www.tsalilodge.org ^(v14), and it is complete with pictures, maps, and links to official websites. You'll find every bit of information that we have in this printed version on that site.

If you are reading through the book and see that one of your favorite camping spots or hiking trails isn't included, visit the website and submit your ideas. We in the Camping Promotions Program of Tsali Lodge seek to include camping in all its forms. This includes local/District camping, Council Camps as well as National Programs. We sincerely hope that you will want to share any information which you might have with your fellow Scouts and Scouters.

Please remember while camping to uphold the high ideals of the scouting program. Do your best to keep the camps clean and usable for all of those campers who use it after you. Good luck camping and most importantly, have fun!!

Good Camping,

Travis Broadhurst
Camping Book Editor, 2014
geo.travis@yahoo.com

Mark Birdsong
Adviser
Diagma3@hotmail.com

Cover Picture: Looking Glass Rock, Pisgah National Forest. (500 ft tall). Popular for its variety of rock climbing and hiking to panoramic views of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

WHY SHOULD WE GO CAMPING?

- *Camping is a major part of the scouting program.*
- *Scouts who camp on a normal basis get more out of the program and stay scouts longer.*
- *Campers tend to advance more frequently.*
- *CAMPING IS FUN!!!!*
- *A PowerPoint further stressing the importance of camping can be found online at www.tsalilodge.org (√14)*

Hiking Safety and Courtesy

Thunder and Lightning

Be aware of thunderstorms and lightening. If you find yourself at the highest point around, which can happen on Balds, get down as quickly as possible. You can measure the distance between yourself and an approaching storm by counting the seconds between the flash of lightning and the clap of thunder. Five seconds equals a mile. If you are not far enough down the trail to be in a safe position by the count of 2 between lightening and thunder drop your metal pack, squat- keeping on the balls of your feet and tuck your head down. This will allow you to have the least amount on contact to the ground possible. Do not seek shelter under a lone tree or a rock shelf.

Camp Fires

Use a backpacking stove. Only consider having a campfire where regulations allow. Use only wood lying on the ground. When you choose to have a campfire make sure there is adequate water to put the fire completely out. If you will not put your hands in the ashes - it is not out.

Meeting others of the trail

Equestrians have the right of way. Hikers and cyclists should get, as far off the trail as safely possible. Let the equestrians direct you to help maintain the calmness of the horse. Mountain bikers should take care when coming around blind curves. Hikers, who are using a multi-use trail should take care to listen for others using the trail. It is often easier for you to stop or move aside. Hikers who are ascending have the right of way over those descending. It is much easier for most to get started going down hill again.

Essential items

Always carry these items when going on a trail:

map	watch	insect repellent
compass	protective clothing (rain, wind, cold)	extra food
flashlight	minimum first aid (& any needed medications)	pen and paper
whistle	pocket knife (check regulations)	sun screen

- Be aware that ticks, stinging insects, poisonous snakes, and poison ivy are present.
- Pack proper clothing and equipment.
- Be aware of hunting season. Wear hunter orange clothing during hunting seasons.
- Refer to your map often and know where you are at all times.
- Don't expect a cell phone to help you—service is often unavailable in the mountains.

LOW IMPACT / NO TRACE CAMPING

If your troop or patrol comes up on a place in the woods that looks completely unused, odds are that the group before you used a technique called Low Impact/No Trace Camping. This technique consists of preparing your meals over stoves rather than fires, pitching your tents away from small plants, and packing your trash. Low-Impact Camping is a fun way to challenge yourself and help the environment all at the same time. This method also helps you travel lightly on the land. This method shows that you as a scout are living true to the high ideals of the scout oath and law.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CAMPSITE?

The goal of this camping booklet is to make units in the Daniel Boone Council aware of camping areas both within and outside of North Carolina. This booklet has been made to promote more camping. Promoting camping is the first and foremost goal of the Order of the Arrow.

TSALI LODGE has a great interest in learning about favorite campsites enjoyed by local Council units. Any new additions will be added when this booklet is updated, and available for download on the Tsali website. Let us know about your favorite site, so we can spread the enjoyment of camping.

WHAT IS THE ORDER OF THE ARROW?

The Order of the Arrow is the Scouting brotherhood of honor campers. The organization is a society of Boy Scouts and Explorers that functions as a part of the regular camping program of the Boy Scouts of America. The Order's foremost purpose is to promote and enrich Scout camping. The Arrowmen in a local Scout council form a lodge (using the Indian tradition in the sense of the hunting lodge or the council lodge).

Elements of Indian tradition are used in Order of the Arrow ceremonies for dramatic effect. However, the Indian aspects of the Order, should never obscure the objectives. One becomes a member not so much for what he has done but for what he is expected to do.

OA ELECTIONS

To become a member of the Order of the Arrow; a Boy Scout or Varsity Scout is chosen by vote of the youth in his unit. This is a unique feature of the Order since the majority selecting OA candidates for this honor, are not members of the lodge. However, lodge members of the unit do have a vote as well as nonmembers. In this way membership is controlled by the youth in their own units and not by established Arrowmen. Elections for the Order, are held once a year in each unit. Scouts through 20-years of age are considered to be youth. Youth candidates are elected by other youth in the unit. The unit's committee first nominates adults 21-years of age or older. However, the admittance of the adult as a candidate is under the discretion of the lodge executive committee.

To be eligible for election; a Scout must have 15-days and nights of camping including at least one long-term camp (6-consecutive days). Scouts must be First Class to be eligible for election to the Order. There are no rank, requirements for Adults. Each candidate must be an active registered member of the Boy Scouts of America.

ORDER OF THE ARROW INDUCTION

Candidates for induction have one year from the date of their election to be inducted, unless special arrangements are made through the lodge executive committee. Every candidate inducted into the Order of the Arrow participates in an Ordeal and ceremonies that are conducted in a serious and dignified manner true to Scouting tradition. All of the procedures have a deep meaning. The induction is not a hazing or an initiation ceremony.

The Order is not a secret Scout organization, and its ceremonies are open to any parent, adult leader, or religious leader. Since there is an element of mystery in the ceremonies, for the sake of the effect on candidates, Order of the Arrow ceremonies are not held as public gatherings. The ceremonies have been planned so that they are not objectionable to any religious group.

If you feel your unit is eligible to have members bear the high sign of the Order, then your unit leader should contact your area's Chapter Chief. Contact the District Executive or Council Officer for your area for current information. After the Chapter Chief is notified, he will contact the unit leader and set up a time for the chapter to conduct the election within the troop. The Order of the Arrow is a great honor for both youth and adult. The order represents the highest ideals of camping and service.

TSALI LODGE wants to be a part of you unit's program. If any newly chartered troops or troops with a large number of new scouts would like help in teaching new or different camping techniques, the local OA Chapter will gladly assist in any capacity. Again, contact the local Chapter Chief, or email the lodge chief at tsalilodgechief@gmail.com. We hope to grow together, unit and chapter, in fellowship and spirit.

WHAT'S BEEN ADDED THIS YEAR?

This year, Tsali lodge has added a water camping section to its Where To Go Camping Guide, complete with information on lake camping and waterfall camping. This section will provide troops with new places to explore and totally new experiences with their scouts that are only available on the water, such as canoeing, swimming, waterfall hopping, and even snorkeling! Nonetheless, it is always important to remember that a BSA certified lifeguard must be taken on all campouts dealing with water activities. A lifeguard is not guaranteed at many of the places in this book, so always use caution and if you do not have a lifeguard, DO NOT SWIM!

Thank you,

Travis Broadhurst
2014 Where to Go Camping Guide editor

Section II-Area Boy Scout Camps and National High Adventure Bases



Camp Daniel Boone

Contents

1 – Index

2 - Camp Daniel Boone (CDB)

3 - Daniel Boone Goin' Great 1st year program

Daniel Boone 2014 Boonesboro Village

Daniel Boone 2014 Scoutmaster Trek

4 - Daniel Boone 2014 Wilderness Classroom

Daniel Boone 2014 Whitewater Adven. Trek

5 - Camp Daniel Boone High Adventure Treks

6- Camp Daniel Boone Troop Wilderness Treks

7- CDB Facility Rental & Equipment Use

8- CDB Application for Short-Term Camping

10 – Camp Daniel Boone Primitive Campsites

11 - Bonner Scout Reservation & Pamlico Sea Base

Camp Bob Hardin

Camp Bud Schiele

12 - Camp John J. Barnhardt

Cherokee Scout Reservation

Camp Tuscarora

13 - Mecklenburg Scout Reservation

Camp Durant

Camp Lawrence Bowers

14 - Raven Knob Scout Reservation

Camp Old Indian

Camp Coker

15 - Camp Barstow

Useful Scout Camp Links

16- Northern Tier High Adventure Bases

17- Florida National High Adven. Sea Base

18- Philmont Scout Ranch

Camp Daniel Boone



Camp Daniel Boone

3647 Little East Fork Road
Canton, NC 28716
(828) 648-0435

www.campdanielboone.org (v14)

Daniel Boone Council

333 West Haywood St.
Asheville, NC 28801
1-800-526-6708 or (828) 254-6189
Fax # (828) 252-4818

Mailing Address:

PO Box 7626
Asheville, NC 28802

www.danielboonecouncil.org (v14)

Camp Daniel Boone is located 12 miles south of Canton in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Western North Carolina, or about 40 miles southwest of Asheville. It is adjacent to the Shining Rock National Wilderness Area.

Camp Daniel Boone has miles and miles of trails through Pisgah National Forest. Located at an altitude of 3,400 feet, Daniel Boone is nestled between two 4,000-foot mountain ranges. Campsites are naturally spaced and connected by winding trails that cross cool, clear streams. Troop sites sleep from 20 to 40 campers. Natural camping is provided under wall tents mounted on raised platforms or wooden adirondacks. Hot showers are spaced throughout the campsites. Campers enjoy the challenge of field sports at Camp Daniel Boone, including riflery, archery, skeet, athletics and excellent fishing.

Backpacking, canoeing, rock climbing, whitewater rafting, and Fontana Float Expedition are all offered in the High Adventure program. We also offer a week long C.O.P.E. program.

Camp Daniel Boone Goin' Great First Year Program

Goin' Great is Camp Daniel Boone's First Year Camper program. Designed to give new Scouts a huge boost through the first three ranks in Scouting (Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class), our program combines classroom learning with hands-on experience to enable Scout to learn read-world survival skills in a controlled environment.

We cover several of the outdoors requirements which are a little bit difficult for most Troops to do at home, but that are easy to do at camp--the one mile compass course, or five mile hike for example. In the course of the week, every Scout in the GG program has the chance to earn both the Totin' Chip and Firem'n Chit, and just about three-fourths of the Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class rank requirements.

Camp Daniel Boone - Boonesboro Village

Not Just Learning History, But Living It!

Boonesboro Village is a Living History Program at Camp Daniel Boone. It allows scouts young and old to experience crafts and skills that were common in the late-1700's. For the first time, Villagers will have the opportunity to become **"RESIDENT VILLAGERS"**. Participants will enter the 1770's Sunday afternoon and live in the village through Friday evening, experiencing a taste of life in those by-gone days. Scouts 13 and older and leaders are welcome to sign up for this NEW high adventure program. Participants will live in barracks, prepare and eat your own meals as they did in the 1770's, and enjoy a full program of Crafts, contests, games, and many surprises. Each resident Villager will be provided with a period hunting shirt, and receive a special pewter medallion for identification.

This high adventure program can accept only 40 Villagers each week, so sign on early. The Boonesboro Village program is open to all Scouts and Leaders attending Camp Daniel Boone during the hours of 9:00am – 5:00pm, as in past years. Craft prices are listed below. Evening activities are reserved for the resident villagers. The Village Craft Centers are directed by Master Craftsman who average over 20 years experience in their Craft, and they will teach you the skills of the 1770's as well as the history of the period, and of their Craft.

Crafts offered include Blacksmithing, Cooperage, Hornsmithing, Knifemaking, Indian Lore and Felt Bag making. Games and Contests will include learning to make fire by flint & steel, and the bow drill, knife & 'hawk throw'n, and the Highland Games on Wednesday afternoon. Resident Villagers receive 2 craft kits with their fees. Each resident villager can select one from group A and one from group B. Additional crafts may be purchased at the prevailing rate. All craft activities offer partial or full merit badge sign-off. Resident Villagers will be permitted to leave to take up to two merit badges in the CDB program during the afternoon sessions (1:30 & 2:30 sessions) Medallions and Village Patches will be awarded to each CDB villager who completes at least 1 craft.

So step back 230 years with us and **COME LIVE BOONESBORO VILLAGE** with us!

Rock School

Five days of rock climbing at various locations. Day one focuses on an overview of climbing merit badge. Those skills are then taken to a local destination (Victory Wall, Looking Glass or Snake's Den) on Tuesday.

From there, the group will travel to Linville Gorge Wilderness where the remainder of the week will be spent learning complex rigging techniques while improving climbing skills on Table Rock, the Chimneys, Hawk's Bill and Short Off. Time between routes is spent bouldering and backpacking from one location to the next. Groups will return to camp on Friday evening.

Due to the level of physical and mental maturity required, requirements for the trip are that all participants must be either 14 years of age with the climbing merit badge or at least 15 years of age. Participants should also be able to do 2 pull-ups and 20 pushups. We will furnish all harness and rock equipment. We do ask that scouts provide climbing shoes as that will aid in the more technical climbs. Participants will earn the Climbing Merit Badge.

Fontana Float

This expedition combines four days on the water with a day hike along Lake Fontana. This trek will begin with a full day of canoeing on the Little Tennessee River. With three class I rapids, Monday is nine miles of floating fun before the river empties into Fontana Lake. Once on the lake, enjoy three days of paddling in two man kayaks or canoes. The crew will travel Robinson Crusoe style from shore to shore, island hopping across Fontana Lake. Friday will provide an opportunity to visit Fontana Dam, the largest dam east of the Mississippi River and do a day hike along the Appalachian Trail. Scouts will have the opportunity to work on canoeing, cooking, camping, hiking, orienteering and fishing merit badges.

All participants bring personal camping and fishing gear. It is important for scouts to pack lightly. We recommend one dry bag for every two scouts. We provide dry bags for participants that do not bring their own. Participants must also be able to pass the swim test at Camp Daniel Boone's Lake Allen. Our pontoon boat will carry all of the food, patrol gear and personnel gear.

Camp Daniel Boone - Whitewater Adventure Trek

Camp Daniel Boone is excited to offer the Whitewater Adventure Trek again for 2014. In conjunction with USA Raft Company, we offer a five-day rafting trip on five different rivers. On Monday, participants will leave camp and drive to the Nantahala River for a guide-assisted trip. The group will tent camp at the rafting outpost in the Nantahala Gorge. On Tuesday, the group will drive to the Pigeon River to raft the upper and lower Pigeon River and then camp at Big Creek Recreation area. After a quick breakfast on Wednesday morning, the group will be driven to the French Broad River. Suggested watercraft for this trip is inflatable kayaks (water level dependant). The participants will then proceed to the New River outpost to spend the night. Thursday will begin with an express trip down the New River, after which the group will drive to the Nolichucky and spend the night at the Historic Crockett Log Cabin. Friday concludes the expedition with a trip on the Upper Nolichucky. The group will return to base camp at Daniel Boone on Friday afternoon.

Camp Daniel Boone High Adventure Treks

First conceived in 1978, our trekking program was developed to be the premier council-operated destination for older Scouts, Explorers and Venturers in the country. Participants must be at least 13 years of age by January 1, 2014, or have completed the 7th grade to be eligible to participate in any high adventure excursion or COPE course. A completed Class III Medical Form is also required for all High Adventure Programs. All treks leaving Camp Daniel Boone will be accompanied by a trained staff member. Our guides assist in leading the group through the wilderness, providing necessary first aid and emergency care, and instructing participants in skills essential for navigation and survival in a wilderness setting. The patrol method is utilized on all expeditions and leadership development is our goal.

2014 Camp Daniel Boone High Adventure Treks

The Cold Mountain/ Art Loeb Trek – (Intermediate to Advanced)

The Cold Mountain/ Art Loeb trek is a five day hike through Pisgah National Forest and Shining Rock Wilderness along the Art Loeb Trail. The trail is approximately 34 miles in length and famous for its ruggedness. Whether hiking out of or back to base camp, this trip is highlighted by outstanding scenery and breathtaking vistas. Two A-frame trail shelters may be used for overnight lodging provided they are vacant. Space at these shelters is on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Shining Rock Wilderness Expedition - (Beginner to Intermediate)

The Shining Rock Wilderness Expedition is a four day backpacking trek through the Shining Rock Wilderness. The trek hikes out of base camp either Sunday evening or Monday morning and hikes back into camp on Thursday evening. Friday is spent whitewater rafting on the Nantahala River. The trek usually covers 30 miles of trail. There are a number of possible routes for the trek and each route offers a combination of different highlights. Every trek includes a visit to Shining Rock (elevation 6,010 ft.), the namesake of this wilderness, which is the largest piece of exposed quartz on the planet and is visible from space.

Middle Prong Wilderness – (Advanced)

Backpackers who know Middle Prong Wilderness value the secluded tract for what it lacks: designated campsites, blazed and well-maintained trails, and established picnic spots. The one sought-after amenity it does offer—almost without fail—is solitude. A sanctuary for black bears, bobcats deer, opossums and raccoons, as well as prime bird watching territory. Yellow-bellied sapsucker, black-capped chickadee, brown creeper, and wild turkey are seen regularly. The middle Prong trek includes the Green Mountain Trail, Mountains to Sea Trail, Buckeye Gap and Haywood Gap Trails, which all intertwine within the wilderness area. This trek is for those looking for a remote wilderness experience.

The Bartram Trail 1 and 2 Week Treks – (Advanced) Named after famed naturalist William Bartram, this trail covers 117 miles thought to be part of his travels in the 1770s. This trip offers an opportunity to witness multiple unique ecosystems daily as the trail meanders through a variety of elevation plateaus in North Georgia and Western North Carolina. The two week trek also provides an 11 mile designate canoe trail through the township of Franklin, NC. Depending on the desire of the scouts, both treks can end with a day of rafting on the Nantahala River. We can also coordinate service work through the North Carolina Bartram Trail Society on this trip to allow both treks to qualify for the Historic Trail Award. The two week trek can spend an entire day of conservation work to earn the 50-miler award. Note: the two week participants must choose between the historic trail award and the 50- miler award as requirements disallow both being earned on the same trip. As is the case with all of our two week offerings, we ask that a minimum of 6 take part for this trek to run.

Joyce Kilmer/Slickrock Creek Wilderness- (Intermediate)

A staff favorite. This wilderness is located along the Tennessee/ North Carolina border south of the Great Smokies. This week long journey will provide participants with a rare opportunity to visit a virgin forest. Part of the trek can include the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest, a 3,800 acre tract of virgin timber and pristine wilderness splendor. Many of the trees are 16 to 22 feet in circumference and over 120 feet tall. Trips may also cross the Tennessee border into Citico Creek Wilderness expanding the coverage area to over 32,000 acres. There is no set route for this trek due to countless possibilities. The itinerary for each trip will be discussed between the troop and the high adventure staff guide upon arrival to camp. Treks depart either Sunday night or Monday morning and return on Friday. Make sure to bring a swimsuit for this journey as swimming holes such as Wildcat Falls highlight this trek.

Camp Daniel Boone

Facility Rental and Equipment Use Guidelines- 2014

Camp is open year around with camping available, Adirondack shelters, Vance Lodge and twelve 4 person cabins in the new Arrowhead Camping Area. Fees for non summer camp usage are free to in council troops for tent and Adirondack camping. **Camp equipment-** Can be used by scout groups. All requests must come through the Camping Director.

We do make the camp available to other youth groups, family reunions, weddings and other groups. All inquiries should come to the office and the camping director, or Peggy Baillie, the camp secretary. Our COPE course is available for \$25 per person for a full day session. We have certified staff to run it and it must also be booked in advance.

Vance Lodge

- Scout Groups \$75 / night
- OA Use \$5 / person per weekend
- Non-Scout Groups \$250 / night
- Refundable Cleaning Deposit \$200 (returned after ranger inspection)

Dining Hall

- Scout Groups \$150 / night
- Non-Scout Groups \$750 / night
- Refundable Cleaning Deposit \$300 (returned after ranger inspection)

New Staff Cabin

- Scout Groups \$50 / night
- Non-Scout Groups \$100 / night
- Refundable Cleaning Deposit \$100 (returned after ranger inspection)

Chips Chapel

- Non-Scout Groups \$100 / event

Camping

- Daniel Boone Council Units No Charge
- Out of Council Scouts \$5 / person per weekend
- Non Scout Groups \$5 per person per night

Pavilion

- Scout Groups No Charge
- Non-Scout Groups \$200 / event
- Refundable Cleaning Deposit \$300 (returned after ranger inspection)

Arrowhead Camping Area

- Daniel Boone Council Units No Charge
- Out of Council Scouts Contact Camp Director
- Non-Scout Groups Contact Camp Director

Camp equipment- Can be used by scout groups. All requests must come through the Camping Director.

APPLICATION FOR SHORT-TERM CAMPING- Page 1

Camp Daniel Boone

Instructions:

1- Fill out Unit Information portion of this application and return to Daniel Boone Council, 333 W. Haywood St. Asheville, NC 28801 at least two weeks prior to trip.

2- Upon arrival, the leader in charge must check in with the Camp Ranger.

Unit Information

Unit _____ District _____ Council _____

Using camp from (date) _____ (time) _____ to (date) _____ (time) _____

Leader in charge _____ Position _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Total Adults _____ Total Youth _____

Special facilities needed _____

We agree to abide by the Pledge of Performance on the second page of this application.

Leader

signature _____ Date _____

Permission to Use Camp

To Camp Ranger:

Unit _____ District _____ Council _____

This unit has permission to use Camp Daniel Boone

They will report at camp on (date) _____ at (time) _____

and will check out on (date) _____ at (time) _____

Leader in charge _____

Adults _____ Youth _____

Special instructions: _____

Signed _____

Title _____

APPLICATION FOR SHORT-TERM CAMPING- Page 2

Pledge of Performance

- 1 - We will use trucks only for transporting equipment -- no passengers except in the cab.
- 2 - We will use safe, properly insured vehicles and will enforce reasonable travel speed in accordance with state and local laws.
- 3 - We will be certain that fires are attended at all times and dead-out before departing.
- 4 - We will not bury or throw in latrines any trash, garbage, or cans. All rubbish that cannot be burned will be placed in a tote-litter bag and taken to the nearest recognized trash disposal, or all the way home if necessary.
- 5 - We will not cut, hack, or scar living trees or shrubs, or disfigure buildings or trees with carving or writing.
- 6 - We will at all times be a credit to the Boy Scouts of America and will not tolerate rowdyism, vandalism, or un-Scout like conduct, keeping a constant check on the members of our group.
- 7 - We will provide every member an opportunity for religious observance on the Sabbath.
- 8 - We will wash dishes with hot water in the unit campsite, not in springs, streams, or at the pump or faucets.
- 9 - We agree to pay for any damages to property or equipment.
- 10 - Only knowledgeable adults may use liquid fuels during Scout activities.
- 11 - No firearms will be used.

Report of Unit in Camp Daniel Boone *(to be returned to Council Service Center)*

Unit _____ District _____ Council _____

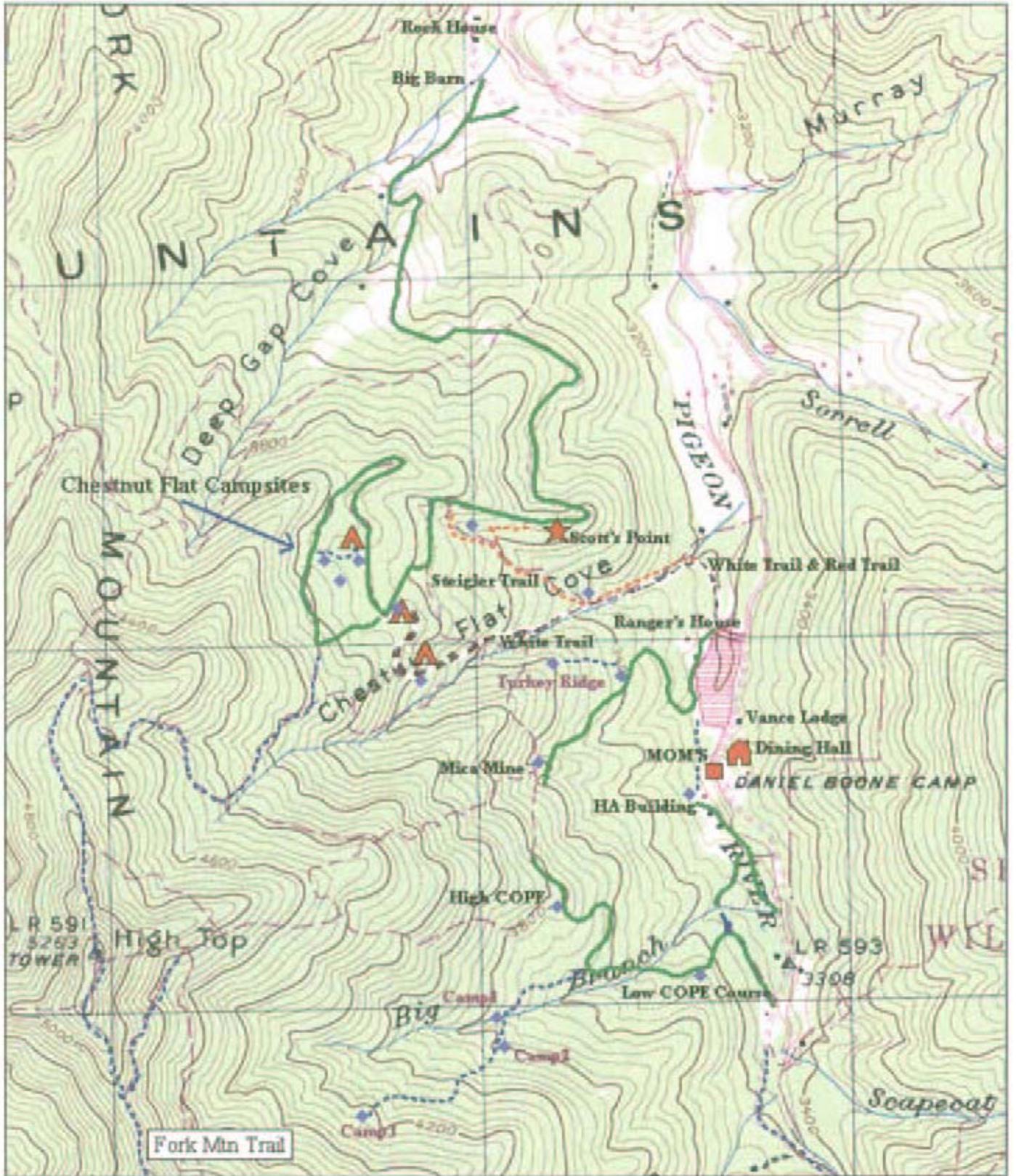
Total Adults _____ Total Youth _____

Date(s) unit used camp _____

Comments about unit in camp:

Signed by Camp Ranger _____

Camp Daniel Boone- Trails and Primitive Campsite Map





Bonner Scout Reservation & Pamlico Sea Base
East Carolina Council, BSA

313 Boy Scout Blvd.
Kinston, NC 28503
(252)-522-1521

www.eccbsa.org (√14)

Located along the picturesque banks of the Pamlico River in Beaufort County, the Bonner Scout Reservation boasts of 880 acres of beautiful Eastern North Carolina wilderness and is available for year round use. A spacious, state of the art, air conditioned dining hall, modern bath and shower facilities, wooded campsites, and swimming pool complex all compliment the tremendously popular East Carolina Council summer camp and high adventure programs.



Camp Bob Hardin
205 Holbert Cove Road
Saluda, NC 28755
(828) 749-5381

www.palmetto-bsa.org (√14)

Palmetto Council, BSA
420 S. Church St.
Spartanburg, SC 29304
(864)-585-4391

Nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains of western North Carolina near the town of Saluda lies Camp Bob Hardin. The camp is located in the native land of the Cherokee Nation and covers 250 acres of mountainous terrain. With two lakes and beautiful mountain views, the camp boasts an Appalachian spirit for those Scouts hardy enough to seek out its mountain adventure. Camp Bob Hardin offers a wide range of in camp and out-of camp programs that are just as attractive to older Scouts as they are to the younger ones. Activity areas include a Shooting Sports program with separate archery, shotgun and rifle ranges, a very dynamic C.O.P.E. course, scoutcraft, handicraft and nature areas, a large activity field for soccer, ultimate frisbee and volley ball, and twin lakes that enable a complete aquatics program.



Camp Bud Schiele
Piedmont Council, BSA

1222 E. Franklin Blvd.
Gastonia, NC 28053-1059
704-864-2694

www.piedmontcouncilbsa.org (√14)

Located in the foothills of Western North Carolina, Camp Bud Schiele serves over 2,000 Scouts per summer and an additional 500 adult leaders. Centered around a beautiful 31 acre lake, Camp Bud Schiele offers a full program of swimming, boating, target shooting, handicrafts, outdoor skills, climbing, C.O.P.E., high adventure, and a first year camper program.

Opened in 1982, Camp Bud Schiele has always focused on the area of quality staffing and is committed to a well-trained staff to offer each Scout the best possible Scouting experience. We are determined that if you attend Camp Bud Schiele, not only will you enjoy one of the finest camps in the Southern Region with quality facilities, but a stronger commitment to the Scouts and the programs that we offer.

Camp John J. Barnhardt
Central North Carolina Council

P.O. Box 250
Albemarle, NC 28002
(704) 982-0141

www.centralnccouncilbsa.com (√14)

Camp Barnhardt, in the William C. Cannon Scout Reservation, on 1,000 acres of beautiful, rolling wooded hills beside Badin Lake, is one of the premier Scout camps. The well-spaced troop campsites will afford your troop junior leaders and scouts an opportunity to practice their leadership skills as they develop stronger patrols and become a better Scout Troop.



Cherokee Scout Reservation
Old North State Council

1405 Westover Terrace
Greensboro, NC 27429
(336)-378-9166

www.bsaonsc.org (√14)

The Cherokee Scout Reservation is situated on 1,700 acres of land in a beautiful hardwood forest in Caswell County. Camp activities include swimming, boating, fishing, and hiking. There is a wide variety of campsites in terms of location, size, and facilities.



Camp Tuscarora Scout Reservation
Tuscarora Council

316 E . Walnut St.
Goldsboro, NC 27533
(919)-734-1714

www.bsanc.org (√14)

The Tuscarora Scout Camp has two lakes available, which provide opportunities for swimming, boating, and fishing. A dining hall is available. Water, firewood, and shelters provide good camping. Activities Scouts have a chance to do include an obstacle course, practicing Scout skills, and using the big activity field.



Mecklenburg Scout Reservation
Mecklenburg County Council
1410 East 7th St., Charlotte, NC 28204
(704)-333-5471
www.bsa-mcc.org (√14)

The Mecklenburg Scout Reservation is a beautiful 1080 acre Scout camping facility located in McDowell County. The camp is situated in the foothills of the scenic Blue Ridge Mountains. Within the reservation there are two camps. Camp Grimes is used for summer camp only and the Hornet's Nest has 250 acres for year-round weekend use. The facilities available are multi-purpose meeting room with a heated kitchen, heated bathhouse, with men and women facilities included hot showers, large Troop campsites and remote walk to facilities. Some activities offered include swimming, boating, and fishing. The camp provides a great atmosphere for map and compass skills, cold weather camping, and day hiking. The only restriction is that your troop needs to obtain a camping permit from the ranger at least the Monday before the week of use.



Camp Durant
Occoneechee Council
3231 Atlantic Ave., Raleigh, NC 27629
(919)-872-4884
www.campdurant.com (√14)

Camp Durant is a permanent resident camp with full facilities and is the location for summer camp. Facilities include Dining Hall, Trading Post, Health Lodge, Rifle, Shotgun & Archery Ranges, shelters and latrines in every campsite (some with two shelters), Rappelling Tower and MUCH more.

Camp Reeves

Camp Reeves is located adjacent to Camp Durant. Camp Reeves is a primitive camp with partial facilities that include: Waterfront, Chapel, Jamboree-type camping fields (with electricity), Administration, Commissary, & Health Lodge buildings and more. The Occoneechee Reservations Camp Ranger's house and warehouse complex are located at the entrance to Camp Reeves.



Camp Lawrence Bowers
Cape Fear Council
110 Longstreet Dr., Wilmington, NC 28406
(910)-395-1100
www.capefearcouncilbsa.org (√14)

Camp Bowers is the Cape Fear Council's main Boy Scout Camp. Camp Bowers plays host every summer for our Boy Scout Resident Camp. With over nine campsites with fully equipped bath houses, a 200 seat dining hall, air-conditioned office and leaders' center, an air-conditioned staff lodge and many other facilities, Camp Bowers can provide you with an outdoor experience with some of the luxuries of home.



Raven Knob Scout Reservation

Old Hickory Council

6600 Silas Creek Pkwy.

Winston-Salem, NC 27106

(336)-760-2900

www.ravenknob.net (√14)

The third largest Scout reservation in the United States, Raven Knob Scout Reservation is nestled in the mountains of northwestern North Carolina in Surry County just outside of Mt. Airy. Raven Knob offers a wide selection of merit badges as well as programs geared for younger and older Scouts and Venturers. We are constantly evaluating our program to bring new and exciting opportunities that Scouts may not have at home.

Merit Badge programs include the entire merit badge program as well as some high adventure programs that complete some merit badge work. Sessions are non-merit badge programs that require registration, such as Swimming Instruction. Open Programs are generally scheduled in the evening and do not require registration, such as the Knob Hike. Finally, adult programs are offered for adults to participate and are generally training sessions such as Safe Swim Defense.



Camp Old Indian

Blue Ridge Council

601 Callahan Mountain Road

Travelers Rest, SC 29690

(864)-233-8363

www.blueridgecouncil.org (√14)

Directions: Hwy. 25 South from NC to Hwy. 42 north of Travelers Rest. Follow camp signs to Camp Old Indian.

Camp Old Indian offers a Pathfinder Program for basic scout skills needed for Tenderfoot, Second and First Class rank. A variety of merit badges are offered at Camp Old Indian including: Citizenship in the Community, Nation and the World. For the older scouts, a 54-mile backpacking trek is offered for the older scouts and leaders interested in hiking the Foothills Trail of South Carolina. Boys must be at least 14 years of age and hold the First Class rank. There are many other programs offered at Camp Old Indian to ensure an exciting and fun filled week of Summer Camp in the Blue Ridge Mountains.



Camp Coker

Pee Dee Area Council

109 W Laurel St,

Florence, SC 29501

(843) 662-6306

www.pdac-bsa.org (√14)

Directions: 5 miles south of Society Hill off Hwy. 52. Camp Cooker is in the southern part of South Carolina. It specializes in merit badge courses for scouts.



Camp Barstow
Indian Waters Council

715 Betsy Drive
Columbia, SC 29202
(803) 750-9868

www.indianwaters.org/iwcn/campbarstow.aspx (√14)

Camp Barstow is the Boy Scout camp for the midlands of South Carolina. There have been three locations for Camp Barstow: 1930 - 1940 on what is now Ft. Jackson, 1942 - 1995 near Gaston, and 1995 - present near Batesburg-Leesville, on Lake Murray.



Helpful Scout Camping Links

[www.scouters.com/compass/Where To Go/BSA Camps/North Carolina](http://www.scouters.com/compass/Where%20To%20Go/BSA%20Camps/North%20Carolina) (√14)- A listing of North Carolina Boy Scout Camps including local weather forecasts, map coordinates, & driving directions. Non-BSA Camp sites are also listed.

[www.scouters.com/compass/Where To Go/BSA Camps](http://www.scouters.com/compass/Where%20To%20Go/BSA%20Camps) (√14)- information on boy scout camps in the USA, location, fees, staff, guidelines, outdoor activities, forms, programs, facilities, cub scout programs, webelos camps.

www.scoutcamp.org (√14)- Scoutcamp.org provides a large database of camps, including both scout-owned, public and private lands. All of these camps were submitted by scouters who actually camped there, along with many useful comments.

National BSA High Adventure Bases

Get out of the house and into the excitement offered at one of the BSA High Adventure Bases! You have three choices: a unique aquatic quest at the Florida Sea Base; a canoeing or winter camping challenge at the Northern Tier; or a wild west backpacking expedition at the Philmont Scout Ranch.

Northern Tier National High Adventure Bases

Charles L. Sommers, Atikokan, and Bissett National High Adventure Bases

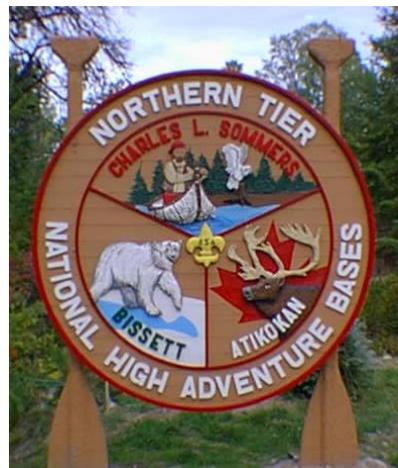
National High Adventure Bases BSA

PO Box 509,

Ely, Minnesota 55731-0509

(218) 365-4811

www.ntier.org (v14)



This High Adventure Base provides year-around access. It offers a modern office building, spacious dining hall, Scandinavian-style cabin accommodations, large tent and camping area, tiled shower house, and -a Finnish Sauna. In addition, there is a well-stocked trading post, commissary, canoe yard, and a repair shop, all included in a graveled parking area. All general needs can be taken care of in the town of Ely. There are about 80 people serving the summer program, all trained in canoe travel, low-impact camping, ecology and group leadership. The Sommers Base is six miles by water from Canada and offers access to dozens of wilderness routes on both sides of the border.

Northern Expedition Fishing

Bissett, Manitoba, Canada

This base provides fly-in and fishing at its best! Northern Expeditions at Bissett offer wilderness canoeing in the purest spirit of High Adventure. For those crews who crave this type of adventure, the Manitoba bush country east of Lake Winnipeg offers some of most diverse canoeing available, ranging from spectacular rivers to pristine lake country. Most crews take advantage of the optional charter float plane, beginning and ending their trip from air-only accessible Scout Lake.

Atikokan Canoeing

Atikokan, Ontario, Canada

This base is considered the canoe capital of Canada. The base contains a challenging land of lakes that provides thundering rapids and game fish running abundantly through the lakes. It is the newest of the Northern Tier High Adventure sites. The name comes from the Inuit name Woodland Caribou. Trips are featured north of the Quetico Park in the Turtle and Seine Rivers into areas south of the park. These areas provide challenge to the beginners as well as the master canoers.

Okpik Winter Adventure

Learn the skills of the north woods winter. Some of the programs offered cross-country skiing, snow shoeing, winter shelter, winter camping, and ice fishing. Weekend programs are generally the most popular. Staff members are provided to assist your unit in the basics of cold-weather camping. Older scouts can also be trained to be future staff members. Contact the Okpik Winter Adventure Base for additional information.

The Florida National High Adventure Sea Base

P.O. Box 1906
Islamorada, FL 33036
(305) 664-5612
www.bsaseabase.org (v14)



In the heart of the fabulous Florida Keys, on a sub-tropical island, 75 miles south of Miami, The Sea Base is scouting's most complete aquatic adventure programs offering: sailing, motor boating, canoeing, deep sea fishing, scuba diving, lobstering, and beach combing. Scouts can explore the vast ecosystem found in the Florida Keys.

The Sea Base facilities include a large, fully equipped galley with indoor and outdoor dining areas that comfortably seat 120 for meals. The elevated dorms overlook Florida Bay and one of the bridges that separates the Atlantic Ocean from the Gulf of Mexico. The harbor has a 300 foot dock for the larger sailing yachts as well as many shorter docks for smaller vessels. The swimming area is complete with a step down deck and marker buoys. The Trading Post sells many items that you may have forgotten or that you want to take home as a remembrance of your adventure. Just a mile off shore lies an extensive underwater coral ecosystem that forms a protective barrier around the islands. Thousands of tropical fish make the reef their home. The Florida water is crystal clear, making vision under water optimum. To this day the lure of discovering buried treasure is still a possibility. While at the sea base, there is no dead time, considering your adventure starts the day you arrive at the base. After you arrive, a swim check and snorkeling skills are immediately tested. After that, you will go to the galley for a meal and briefing of the activities you will undertake while at the Sea Base. Some of the programs offered include:

- * OUT ISLAND ADVENTURE
- * BAHAMAS ADVENTURE
- * CORAL REEF SAILING ADVENTURE
- * FLORIDA KEYS ADVENTURE PROGRAM
- * SEA EXPLORING ADVENTURE
- * SCUBA PROGRAMS (Scuba Certification & Scuba Adventure)
- * KEYS ADVENTURE - NON-SUMMER
- * KEYS WEEKEND ADVENTURE

Philmont Scout Ranch

Cimarron, NM

17 Deer Run Road
Cimarron, NM 87714
(505)-376-2281

www.scouting.org/philmont (√14)

www.troop764.org/Philmont (√14)



Philmont Scout Ranch is the most popular High Adventure Base of all Boy Scouts. Philmont is spread over 137,493 acres of the Sangre de Cristo Mountain Range in northeastern New Mexico. Included in Philmont are alpine meadows, vistas, mesas, and rugged slopes.

Each year Philmont hosts over 15,000 Scouts, Explorers, and leaders from all over the entire world. Philmont offers many educational and high adventure programs are offered at each of Philmont's staffed camps. Some of the programs offered include: panning for gold, hiking, rock climbing, fur trapping, rifle and shotgun shooting, burro racing, fishing, horseback riding, spar pole climbing, and educational side hikes.

Within the vast, working ranch, the elevations range from 6,500 feet to 12,441 feet at Mount Baldy. A crew can choose from various itineraries, classed on difficulty and programs offered. There are over 300 miles of developed hiking trails that link staffed and non-staffed camps together. 24 preplanned itineraries are offered which can be chosen by program or route. Of the 24 itineraries, some are more strenuous than others and all of them are spread over either the North or South Countries.

RAYODO MEN

Older more experienced hikers who think that a regular trek isn't much of a test, then Rayodo is the adventure for you. Rayodo Men offers outdoor leadership building, group dynamics, wilderness problem-solving, advanced outdoor skills, and close to 210 miles of hiking over the 21 day span.

TRAIL CREW / OA TRAIL CREW

OA Trail Crew and Regular Trail Crew are programs designed to preserve the beautiful Philmont wilderness. Regular Trail Crew has no charge except transportation and OA Trail Crew has a minimal fee of 100 dollars. OA Trail Crew is a 14 day trek with 7 days of conservation and trail building and 7 days on the trail. Regular Trail Crew consists of 18 days at a back-country work project and then a 10 day regular trek.

OTHER GREAT ADVENTURES INCLUDE:

- *Expeditions *Cavalcades
- *Mountain Men *Mountain Women
- *Kanik *Autumn Adventure

Pisgah National Forest

District Ranger
USDA Forest Service
1001 Pisgah Hwy.
Pisgah Forest, NC 28768
(828) 877-3265
www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc

The Pisgah Ranger District office is located southwest of Asheville and north of Brevard and is easily accessible from several main roads including the Blue Ridge Parkway. The district ranger station is located on US 276 near Brevard and is open to the public 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. They are also open on the weekends and holidays during the summer from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

The district covers over 150,000 acres and has hundreds of miles of trails with different degrees of difficulty for any level of experience. These trails offer a vast array of outdoor activities, such as hiking, cycling, backpacking, horseback riding, rock climbing, fishing, wildlife observation, photography and more. The diversity of terrain offered in the area is amazing. Pisgah contains mountain peaks that brush the clouds at an elevation of over 6000 ft., rock faces, open balds and cascading waterfalls.



Cold Mountain in the winter

Contents

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1- Index | Graveyard Fields |
| 2- Campgrounds & Group Sites | 11- John Rock |
| 5- Private Campgrounds | Linville Gorge |
| 6- Hiking and Backpacking | 12- Little Sam Knob |
| Art Loeb Trail | Looking Glass Rock |
| 7- Bennett Gap | Mountains to Sea Trail |
| Big East Fork of the Pigeon | 13- Pilot Cove Loop |
| River | Pilot Mountain |
| Black Mountain Trail | Pink Beds Loop |
| 8- Buck Spring | 14- Pressley Cove |
| Cold Mountain | Shut-in National Trail |
| 9- Coontree Loop | Sycamore Cove Area Trails |
| Courthouse Falls | 15- Turkey Pen |
| Crabtree Bald | Wagon Road Gap |
| 10- Daniel Ridge Loop | 16- Recreation Areas |

Pisgah National Forest Campgrounds & Group Sites

Black Mountain

Elevation: 3,000 feet.

From Busick, NC, take State Rt. 80 north 0.7 miles to campground sign at South Toe River Rd.(Forest Rt. 472 and State Rt. 1205). Bear left onto South Toe Rd. and go 2.5 miles to campground. Sitting in the shadow of Mt. Mitchell, the highest peak in the East, and bordering the South Toe River, Black Mountain and Briar Bottom Group Campgrounds are meccas for people who enjoy the outdoors and recreation, such as hiking and fishing. Black Mountain Campground offers 48 camping sites (none with hookups). Briar Bottom Group Campground has six sites for 50 people at each site. For those camping at these sites, a ball field and volleyball net are available nearby. All campsites have picnic tables, fire rings with cooking grills, and lantern posts. Nearby are flush toilets, drinking water, and trash cans. A sewage disposal is 1 mile from the campgrounds. No showers are available. Great views of the Black Mountains and several trails.

Black Mountain Recreation Area (543 kb pdf) - www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/recreation/black_mountain.pdf

Boone Fork

Elevation: 1,300 feet.

From Lenoir, NC, take State Rt. 90 west 4 miles to Boone Fork Recreation Area sign (Mulberry Creek Dr.). Turn right at sign and go 4.5 miles to a Boone Fork sign (Boone Fork Rd.). Turn right onto Boone Fork Rd. (dirt, single lane) and go 2 miles to campground. The campground has two loops, one of which is for group camping. The campground has two loops, one of which is for group camping. The understory is manicured grass with a variety of deciduous trees, i.e., Dogwood, maple, poplar, etc. and hemlock. Lantern poles are located at each campsite.

Cove Creek Group Camp

From Brevard take US 276 N for 8.4 miles; go to Forest Service Rd. 475; turn W and go 3.4 miles to area. The area offers camping, drinking water, fishing, hiking and a sanitation facility. Reservations are required.

Davidson River

Elevation: 2,200 feet.

In Brevard, NC, at intersection of US Rts. 64 and 276 and State Rt. 280, take Rt. 276 north 1.1 miles to campground sign. Turn left at sign into campground. The campground, stretching out along Davidson River, has eight loops - Sycamore, Apple Tree, Dogwood, Hemlock, Riverbend, Poplar, Laurel, and White Oak (and a connection spur). Some campsite, designated as premium, back up onto Davidson River. Although it has large hemlock trees, Sycamore Loop is the most open. Hemlock and Poplar Loops have the best privacy and thick canopies. Riverbend Loop features huge Rhododendrons and an informal river swim area. A large level field exists between Hemlock and Dogwood Loops. Shade is provided by a pleasant mixture of hardwoods and conifers giving campground a spectacular color display during Fall season. Rhododendron and Dogwood enhance Spring foliage. Firewood is available for a fee.

Kuykendall Group Camp

This is a single group site. Restrooms are provided. Popular activities include waterplay, hiking, biking and sight-seeing. You must drive through the stream to get to the campground. Please have confirmation number available at this time. Fires are allowed in Forest Service provided fire rings only. Reservations are required.

Lake Powhatan

Elevation: 2,200 feet.

In Asheville, NC, at intersection of I-26 and I-40, take I-26 east 1.8 miles to State Rt. 191 (Exit 33). Take exit to traffic light (State Rt. 191). Turn left onto State Rt. 191 South and go 1.9 miles to Lake Powhatan sign. Turn right at sign and go 2.5 miles to campground. The campground, adjacent to Lake Powhatan, has four loops - Hardtimes, Big John, Bent Creek, and Lakeside. The campsites are tucked in among a mixed forest of deciduous and conifer trees. Well spaced campsites with a thick middlestory make for good privacy. Although Lakeside is closest loop to the lake, the campsites have no view of it. Convenient to Blue Ridge Parkway and mile upon mile of trails, this campground is good for transient campers, long weekend and vacation campers. Possible day trips are Asheville, Blue Ridge Parkway and Cradle of Forestry Visitor Center. Check the fee board for interpretive programs held during the summer season. Firewood and ice are available for a fee.

Mortimer (Elevation: 1,500 ft)

From Lenoir, NC, take State Rt. 90 west 21 miles to a "Y" intersection. Bear right and go 3.1 miles to campground on right. The campground, stretching up a hill, has a split personality. The campsites at the rear of campground have only the most basic amenities, i.e., level area, table, and lantern pole, in an open grass field. Campsites in the front end are tucked in among towering hemlock, maple, and oak trees with a scattering of rhododendrons. These sites have the "basic" plus grilles and tent pads. Thorps Creek, which can be heard throughout, runs through the campground where some campsites overlook it. A third section, located on the other side of creek, is comprised of all walk-in tent sites snuggled in among huge rhododendrons.

North Mills River (Elevation: 2,200 feet)

In Asheville, NC, at intersection of I-40 and I-26, take I-26 east 1.8 miles to Exit 33 (State Rt. 191). Take exit ramp to traffic light. Turn left onto Rt. 191 South and go 9.8 miles to N. Mills River Rd (State Rt. 1345). Turn right onto N. Mills Rd and go 4.7 miles to campground. The campground, with two unnamed loops, is located on either side of North Mills River in a thick forest of deciduous trees. Some campsites have good privacy provided mainly by rhododendron. Tubing is a popular sport on the river. The loop on east side of campground is more wooded, has campground's only double sites, paved parking aprons, and couple of riverside campsites. The loop on west side is level, slightly more sunny with gravel parking aprons.

Rocky Bluff

Rocky Bluff Campground is the perfect mountain getaway for visitors who seek quiet and solitude amid nature's picturesque surroundings. Tucked away off NC 209 near Hot Springs, the campground is one of the best-kept secrets in the national forests in North Carolina. Dates Open: May 1 to October 31. Fee: \$8 a night per site, on a first-come, first-served basis, 30 sites, 14-day limit for visit. What sites offer: Parking spur, picnic table, tent pad, and fire grate. Other amenities: Running water and flush toilets in center of campground's lower loop; nearby is a picnic area with 10 tables (no fee for day-use.); amphitheatre.

From Asheville (40 miles): Take U.S. 19/23 N to U.S. 25/70 NW toward Marshall and Hot Springs for about 30 miles. At junction of U.S. 25/70 and NC 208, take a left and continue on U.S. 25/70 to Hot Springs. From Hot Springs, take NC 209 for 3 miles. Rocky Bluff Campground is on the left. For more information, call (828) 622-3202.

Landscaping for the lower loop is very attractive with manicured grass understory and sculptured miniature hemlock trees. These trees seem to grow no more than 20 feet in height and are clumped at the top like palm trees. Most of the sites in the campground are terraced and built with stone walls. The predominant deciduous trees are maple, oak, and Dogwood. A cemetery is accessed via site 29 and is a reminder of the former residents - the Robert Brooks family.

Rocky Bluff Campground (209 kb pdf) - www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/recreation/RockyBluff.pdf

Silvermine

Silvermine Group Campground is nestled under a canopy of hemlocks and tall poplars. A rushing creek meanders 50 feet from the group campsite, which provides room for up to 50 people to set up tents. Pump Gap 4.2-mile loop trail can be accessed directly from the campground. The trail follows a stream and then forks. This is the beginning and ending point of the loop section, so either fork can be taken. If you take the right fork, the trail climbs to a ridge, crosses the Appalachian Trail, and descends along a creek. Along the creek, a side trail to the right follows an old road to Big Laurel Creek.

DATES OPEN: May 1 to October 31, fees apply. FOR RESERVATIONS: Appalachian Ranger District, French Broad Station, at (828) 622-3202. WHAT SITES OFFER: two large tent pads (15 by 30 feet); two grills. OTHER AMENITIES: One picnic shelter with two tables; water pump; chemical toilets.

Silvermine Group Campground (507 kb pdf) - www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/recreation/silvermine.pdf

Sunburst

From Canton, NC, take State Rt. 215 south 16 miles to campground. An alternative is to take State Rt. 215 (milepost 423) from the Blue Ridge Parkway north 8.6 miles to campground. This campground is located right on State Rt. 215 (National Scenic Byway); there will be some road noise. There is a stream across Rt. 215.

Private Campgrounds in Pisgah Area

Brevard

Black Forest Family Camping Resort www.blackforestcampground.com (√14)

90 sites – 21 full hook-ups – cabins – Fees: 2 persons \$16 tents - \$20-\$22 RV's - \$30-\$40 cabins – Open March 15-December 1.

Phone Number: (828) 884-2267

Showers, restrooms, firewood, fire rings, and laundry available.

Activities: Swimming pool, playground, horseshoes, hiking trails, badminton.

Asheville

The French Broad River Campground www.ncrivercamping.com (√14)

44 sites – 10 full hook-ups – Fees: 4 persons \$26-\$34.50 - open year round

Phone Number: (828) 658-0772

Showers, restrooms, firewood, laundry, phones.

Activities: Canoeing, fishing, horseshoes, volleyball, kayak and tube rentals

Balsam

Moonshine Creek Campground www.moonshinecreekcampground.com (√14)

92 sites – 50 full hook-ups – cabins – Fees: 2 persons \$20-\$35 – cabins vary – Open April 1-November 1.

Phone Number (828) 586-6666

Showers, restrooms, firewood, laundry, phones.

Activities: Fishing, horseshoes, hiking, volleyball.

Canton

Big Cove Campground

63 sites – 21 full hook-ups – cabins – Fees: 2 persons \$10 tents - \$15-\$18 RV's - \$15 cabins - Open year round.

Phone Number: (828) 667-9376

Showers, restrooms, firewood, laundry, phones.

Activities: Swimming pool, horseback riding, playground horseshoes, hiking trails.

Hendersonville

Red Gates RV Park

18 sites – 14 full hook-up – cabins – Fees: 2 persons \$10 – Open April 1-November 1.

Phone Number: (828) 685-8787

Showers, restrooms, laundry.

Activities: Swimming, boating, boat rentals, fishing, basketball, shuffle board.

Blue Ridge Parkway

The Pisgah Inn and Campground

137 sites – no hook-ups – Fees: campground 2 persons \$12, Inn \$70, \$78, \$110 - Open April-November.

Phone Number (828) 235-8228

For camping there are bathrooms but no showers. Centrally located in the Pisgah Ranger District.

Pisgah National Forest Hiking and Backpacking Trails



Art Loeb Trail

The Art Loeb Trail is a linking of outstanding trails in Pisgah National Forest, which memorializes the late Arthur J. Loeb, who was an officer of the Carolina Mountain Club and executive of Olin Industries who was held in high esteem by associates in hiking, conservation, and industry. The trail offers an ideal venture for Boy Scouts or anyone seeking to extend hiking experience. The entire trail is marked with direction signs. Most of the Art Loeb Trail is overlapped by the Mountains-to-Sea Trail which is blazed with 3-inch white dots. Section 1 begins at the Davidson River and climbs steeply to Shut-in Ridge. Once up, don't expect that the hard part is over. This trail will take you up and down knobs, along ridges and down into several gaps. Blaze: White

Section 1 (12.3 mi- Strenuous) starts on US 276. Go 0.2 mile south of Pisgah District Ranger Station on U.S. Highway 276, and turn onto the road to Davidson River Campground. Park in the Art Loeb Trailhead parking lot. The trail climbs to Neil Gap behind Davidson River Campground, west to Chestnut Knob, south of Cedar Rock, to Gloucester Gap on FS Rd. 471, where overnight parking is not recommended.

Section 2 (7.2 mi- Strenuous) From Gloucester Gap the trail climbs to Pilot Mountain, a former fire tower site with a 360-degree view. In mid-May the north side of Pilot Mountain is abloom with pinkshell azalea. The trail continues through Farlow Gap, across Blue Ridge Parkway at Shuck Ridge, then across Silvermine Bald to Black Balsam trailhead. Near Silvermine Bald the Mountains-to-Sea Trail splits to the west while the Art Loeb Trail follows the ridge northeast to FS Road 816.

Section 3 (6.8 mi- Strenuous) The first half of this portion of the Art Loeb Trail is perhaps the most spectacular. Black Balsam and Tennant Mountains both exceed 6,000 feet in elevation. The trail climbs to Black Balsam Knob, across Tennant Mountain, entering Shining Rock Wilderness at Ivestor Gap. A beautiful 5-mile loop may be made by combining the Art Loeb Trail with the Ivestor Gap Road. At Ivestor Gap the Art Loeb crosses in Shining Rock Wilderness. Be prepared to practice map reading skills because there are no blazes or signs in the Wilderness. Wood fires are not permitted in Shining Rock and a group limit of 10 is enforced. Wilderness is managed for solitude and a primitive landscape; please help foster this by being quiet, choosing rest stops out of view, and using existing campsites. This section of the Art Loeb Trail ends at Deep Gap.

Section 4 (3.8 mi- Strenuous if starting from Camp Daniel Boone) drops down from Deep Gap, below Cold Mountain, to Daniel Boone Scout Camp off NC 215. Please notify camp staff if you will be leaving a vehicle at the camp.

Bennett Gap

Trailhead: Bennett Gap Parking Area

Trail Finish: Bennett Gap Parking Area

Blaze Color: Red

Hiking Distance: 4.3 miles

Difficulty: Difficult

Time Allowance: 3 hours 30 minutes

Elevation Change: 1290 ft

USGS Map: Shining Rock, Pisgah Forest

Highlights: open vistas of Looking Glass Rock, high fields with views, hardwood forest, rhododendron tunnels, creeks and streams.

Trail Description:

Parking area located near the top of forest road 477.

Trail starts across the road from the parking area and is marked.

.8 mile Perry Cove connects to the left, stay right.

1.0 mile Coontree Loop connects to the right, stay straight.

1.4 miles Coontree loop separates from Bennett Gap on the right, stay straight.

1.9 miles Bennett Gap ends on forest road 477, turn left. Caution: motor vehicle traffic.

Go past the horse stables on right, cross bridge and turn left at next gated road.

2.3 miles Perry Cove Trail, on right, orange blazes.

3.5 miles turn right on Bennett Gap.

Follow Bennett Gap back to parking area.

Big East Fork of the Pigeon River

USGS Map: Shining Rock

Take 276 NW past junction of Blue Ridge Parkway toward Canton and Waynesville. Continue down steep grade 1 ¼ miles. Off to the left of a sharp curve is the trail head and a small parking area. The trail descends in the direction of the river. There is a heavily used campsite in the hollow near the river shortly after the trail head. Continuing in a generally southern direction along the river, the trails pull away from and then back to the river at several points. There are several good camping spots along the trail on a ridge to your left. I would particularly recommend those adjacent to two brooks that flow into the river. At the first really large creek on your left there is a trail leading up to Bennett Gap parking area off the Blue Ridge Parkway. If you continue on the Big East Fork Trail It joins the Greasy Cove Prong Trail to you right to Ivestor Gap or continue to Parkway near Bridges Camp Gap.

Black Mountain Trail (9.8 miles- Strenuous)

Black Mountain Trail begins at the end of the parking lot next to the Pisgah District Work Center on U.S.

Highway 276. The work center is 0.1 mile south of the ranger station.

The first mile of Black Mountain Trail is fairly easy, but after leaving Thrift Cove, it climbs up and over Little Hickory Knob, an 800-foot elevation gain in less than a mile. From here, the trail becomes more moderate as you drop down to Pressley Gap then up the shoulder of Black Mountain. Shortly after crossing the gravel road at Buckhorn Gap, you will come to Buckhorn Gap shelter, where there is a spring. From here, the trail climbs Soapstone Ridge, which offers nice views in the winter. The trail ends at Club Gap. Other outstanding alternate trips after reaching Buckhorn Gap - follow the blue triangle markers west to Avery Creek: then orange markers southwest to White Pines Campground on US 276. Numerous trails intersect Black Mountain; check a topo map for loop opportunities.

Buck Spring

Trail Head: Buck Spring Parking Area

Trail Finish: Pisgah Inn

Blaze Color: White

Hiking Distance: 5.3 miles

Difficulty: Moderate

Time Allowance: 3 hours 30 minutes.

Elevation Change: 1300ft

USGS Map: Cruso and Shining Rock

Trail Description:

Suggestion: When dropping off your car at the Pisgah Inn, please ask at the front desk where you should leave your car.

With the exception of the first half mile, which is moderately steep, Buck Springs Trail is a gradual, sloping grade. The trail has 13 easy stream crossings while winding around 10 ridges.

The trail starts on the upper end of US 276 near the Blue Ridge Parkway at the Buck Spring parking area.

.5 mile intersection of the Mountains To The Sea Trail on your left, keep straight.

.8 mile the Mountain To The Sea Alternative Route on the right, stay straight.

Some steep sections near the end. Continue on the trail back to the Pisgah Inn.

Cold Mountain

Trailhead (& finish) Art Loeb Parking Area at Camp Daniel Boone

Blaze Color: None

Hiking Distance: 10.4 miles

Difficulty: Difficult

Time Allowance: 6 hours 45 minutes

Elevation Change: 2850 ft.

USGS Map: Cruso and Waynesville

Trail Description:

The Cold Mountain Trail is a strenuous 10.6 mile roundtrip in the beautiful Shining Rock Wilderness Area of the Pisgah National Forest. The best months to hike are May through October. Snow covers the top of the peak for much of the other months. Take plenty of water. Experienced hikers will enjoy the challenging climb. The trail is not marked, but it is well-worn and easy to follow. The trailhead for the hiking trail (Art Loeb Trail) is located at the Daniel Boone Scout Camp.

Drive through Camp Daniel Boone to a small parking area on the right.

The Art Loeb Trail starts next to a large information board on the left side of the road.

After 3.8 miles of steady climbing is Deep Gap, turn left & continue climbing! Follow the well-defined Cold Mountain Trail, up the mountain. At the ridge of the mountain there is a small campsite, turn right. Follow this on up to the top. Return back the same way you came up.

Coontree Loop

Trailhead: Coontree Picnic Area
Trail Finish: Coontree Picnic Area
Blaze Color: Blue
Hiking Distance: 3.7 miles
Difficulty: Moderate
Time Allowance: 2 hours
Elevation Change: 970 ft
USGS Map: Shining Rock

Trail Description:

Coontree picnic area is located on US 276 and is well marked.
The trail starts on the other side of US 276 from the parking area, blue blazes. Caution; heavy traffic on US 276.
.2 mile the trail forks, take the trail to the right.
At the ridge Coontree Loop joins with the Bennett Gap Trail, red blazes. Turn left onto this trail.
In approximately .5 mile Coontree Loop breaks off Bennett Gap to the left. Follow Coontree Loop to the bottom of the mountain. The trail meets back at the fork; follow it to the picnic area.

Courthouse Falls

Trailhead: Courthouse Falls Parking
Trail Finish: Courthouse Falls Parking
Blaze Color: Orange
Hiking Distance: 0.7 mile
Difficulty: Easy
Time Allowance: 45minutes
Elevation Change: 80 ft
USGS Map: Sam Knob

Trail Description:

Courthouse Falls parking area is located almost at the end of forest road 140 on the far side of a small bridge.
From the Blue Ridge Parkway take 215 toward Rosman and 140 will be the first left.
Trail begins across the road from the parking area. Marked Courthouse Falls and Summey Cove.
.3 mile sharp turn to the left marked Courthouse Falls. Caution; Waterfalls can be dangerous.
Follow trail back to the parking area.

Crabtree Bald

(5,320ft) From the summit all 49 mountains in Western Carolina can be viewed from 6,000 feet. To get there, take NC 209 for 6 miles north from US 19 at Junaluska. Turn right onto SR 1503 near Crabtree-Ironduff School. Go 2 miles, and turn left onto Bald Creek Road SR 1505. Go 3 miles, park where Indian Branch crosses under the road. Cross the pasture gate on the left, walk up paths and jeep trail to the ridgeline. Go southwest on crest to Crabtree Bald, identified by antenna on the top. NC 209 is also accessible from Fines Creek exit on I-40 if coming from the west. A moderate roundtrip of 7 miles on private property is offered. Contact owner in advance before hiking.

Daniel Ridge Loop

Trail Head: Daniel Ridge Parking Area
Trail Finish: Daniel Ridge Parking Area
Blaze Color: Red
Hiking Distance: 4 miles
Difficulty: Moderate
Time Allowance: 2 hours 45 minutes
Elevation Change: 800 ft
USGS Map: Shining Rock

Trail Description:

The parking area is located on forest road 475 and is next to the Cove Creek Group Camping area. The trail starts at the back of the parking area on a gravel road, follow this for .2 mile. Turn left at the sign for Daniel Ridge Loop Trail, an old access road. Several unknown side trails intersect on the way to the top of the mountain. Follow the red blazes. Farlow Gap Trail Intersects on the left. Follow the red blazes to the right. Approximately two-thirds of the way down is an intersection with a new logging road, not on map. Straight across continue on the trail. Intersection with the access road, turn right, follow this back to the parking area.

Graveyard Fields

Trailhead: Graveyard Fields Parking
Trail Finish: Graveyard Fields Parking
Blaze Color: Blue
Hiking Distance: 3 miles
Difficulty: Easy
Time Allowance: 2 hours
Elevation Change: 150 ft
USGS Map: Shining Rock

Trail Description:

Suggestion: Graveyard Fields can be very congested on the weekends; try this trail out sometime during the week.
Parking area is between US276 and Hwy. 215 on the Blue Ridge Parkway.
Trail starts directly in back of Graveyard Fields parking area.
Almost immediately, the other end of Graveyard Fields trail intersects on the left, go straight.
.2 mile cross a bridge and turn to the left.
.8 mile trail intersects to the left, go straight.
1.6 miles trail ends at the upper falls. Caution: Waterfalls can be dangerous.
Turn back the way you came until reaching the intersection of the trail on the right.
Follow this trail back to the parking area.

John Rock

Trailhead: Fish Hatchery Parking

Trail Finish: Fish Hatchery Parking

Blaze Color: Yellow

Hiking Distance: 5 miles

Difficulty: Moderate

Time Allowance: 2 hours 45 minutes

Elevation Change: 1200 ft.

USGS Map: Shining Rock

Trail Description:

The Fish Hatchery is located at the end of the pavement on 475 coming from the 276 side.

Cat Gap Loop trail is located at the end of the parking area, orange blazes.

Follow the blazes up the mountain.

John Rock on the right, yellow blazes, turn here.

At the top, the trail runs out on the face of John Rock. Caution: Rock cliffs can be dangerous.

Take a right back on the trail, very steep sections.

Turn right on Cat Gap Bypass, follow this trail.

Turn right onto Cat Gap Loop, down the mountain.

Butter Gap on left; continue straight on Cat Gap Loop.

Turn left on service road and follow this to parking area.

Linville Gorge

Formed by Linville Mountain on the west and Jonas Ridge on the east, the gorge sits east of Mount Mitchell.

Linville Gorge's odd assortment of rock formations on Jonas Ridge include Sitting Bear, Hawksbill, Table Rock, and the Chimneys. These features are ideal for hiking, backpacking, and rock climbing. The area includes 39 miles of trails, offering experienced hikers a wonderful excursion.

Free permits are required for camping only on weekends and holidays from May 1-October 31. Permits are not required November 1-April 30 or for visitors who do not stay overnight. Reservations are taken on a first-come, first-served basis, beginning the first working day of each previous month. For example, reservations for wilderness camping permits for June are accepted starting the first working day of May.

ACCESS TO EASTERN SECTION: From Marion, take U.S. 221 north to the intersection of NC 183 at Linville Falls. Turn right on 183 and continue to NC 181. Turn right (south) on NC 181 and go 3 miles to Forest Service Road (FR) 210 (Gingercake Road). Turn right onto FR 210. At the first fork, turn left and continue through Gingercake Acres subdivision.

The first parking area is for Devil's Hole Trail (Sitting Bear), 2 miles from Gingercake Acres. The second parking area is for Hawksbill (parking area on left and trail on right) 1 mile from Devil's Hole. The third parking area is for Spence Ridge and North Table Rock Trails, 1 mile from Hawksbill.

Continue 1 mile to the first intersection and turn right (You will pass the Outward Bound School sign). Stay on this road, bearing to the right through several switchbacks, and you will arrive at Table Rock Picnic Area.

ACCESS TO WESTERN SECTION: From Marion, take U.S. 221 north to the intersection of NC 183 at Linville Falls. Turn right on NC 183 and go 1 mile to NC 1238, Kistler Memorial Highway. Trailhead and parking lots accessing the western section of the gorge lead off Kistler Memorial Highway. Kistler Memorial Highway via NC 126 can be reached from Marion by travel down U.S. 70 east to Nebo. At Nebo, take NC 126 across Lake James and continue 8 miles and turn left on NC 1238, Kistler Memorial Highway. Kistler highway is a gravel road and very rough in places, especially for 2-wheel-drive vehicles.

Little Sam Knob

Trailhead: Black Balsam Parking Area
Trail Finish: Black Balsam Parking Area
Blaze Color: Yellow
Hiking Distance: 4 miles
Difficulty: Easy
Time Allowance: 2 hours 45 minutes
Elevation Change: 600 ft
USGS Map: Sam Knob

Trail Description:

The trail head starts at Black Balsam parking area on Black Balsam road off the Blue Ridge Parkway. At the far end of the parking area you will find the trail marked Flat Laurel Creek; it's an old road bed. .9mile follow Little Sam to the left.
1.2 miles a confusing right turn with a sign for Little Sam. Turn right. A few tricky sections.
2.0 miles Little Sam ends on the Mountains To Sea Trail, white blazes. Turn left.
2.7 miles Art Loeb is on your right. Go straight.
3.5 miles intersect with the Black Balsam road, turn left. Caution: Motor vehicle traffic.
Follow the road back to the parking area.

Looking Glass Rock

Trailhead: Looking Glass Rock Parking Area
Trail Finish: Looking Glass Rock Parking Area
Blaze Color: Yellow
Hiking Distance: 6.2 miles
Difficulty: Moderate
Time Allowance: 3 hours 30 minutes
Elevation Change: 1600 ft.
USGS Map: Shining Rock

Trail Description:

The trail begins in a well-marked parking area beside forest road 475. Heading toward the Fish Hatchery from US 276 it will be on your right.
Follow the well marked trail to the summit. Some areas with very steep hiking.
3.1 miles the summit. Caution: Sheer cliffs are very dangerous.
Return to the parking area back down the same trail you came up.

Mountains to Sea Trail

See Section VI

Pilot Cove Loop

Trailhead: Pilot Cove Loop and Slate Rock
Trail Finish: Pilot Cove Loop and Slate Rock
Blaze Color: Yellow
Hiking Distance: 3.6 miles
Difficulty: Moderate
Time Allowance: 2 hours 30 minutes
Elevation Change: 990 ft
USGS Map: Dunsmore Mountain

Trail Description:

The small parking area is located off forest road 1206 and is marked with a sign for Slate Rock and Pilot Cove Loop.

.2 mile Pilot Cove Loop, yellow blazes, on the right go straight on Slate Rock and Pilot Loop, blue blazes.

1 mile is the ridge line and Pilot Cove Loop is on your right, turn onto this trail.

The trail runs on top of a rock. Caution: Rock cliffs can be dangerous or even fatal.

At the bottom turn left back on Slate Rock and Pilot Cove Loop.

Pilot Mountain

(5,151ft) In mid-May, the slopes of the mountains are covered with Fullbloom Pinkshell Azalea. Views from the summit in all directions reveal the majesty and wildness of the Pisgah National Forest. From US 276, turn west onto Davidson River Road (Forest Service Road 475) 9.8 miles south of Wagon Road Gap on mile 411 .9 on the Blue Ridge Parkway for 5.25 miles north of junction NC 280 and US 64; go 6.2 miles to Gloucester Gap, keep left at junctions; park 5 feet stone slab standing at the junction with Cathy's Creek Road. Climb northwest, right on Art Loeb Trail following the yellow blazes and silhouettes of hikers. Frequent switchbacks make the ascent moderate. It takes 1.5 hours to reach the summit. For a different return route, continue north from the summit, descending on the opposite side of the mountain on Jeep Road. The trail offers a moderate roundtrip of 6 miles and campsites.

Pink Beds Loop

Trailhead: Pink Beds Parking Area
Trail Finish: Pink Beds Parking Area
Blaze Color: Orange
Hiking Distance: 2.2 miles
Difficulty: Easy
Time Allowance: 1 hour 30 minutes
Elevation Change: 100 ft.
USGS Map: Shining Rock

Trail Descriptions:

Pink Beds parking area is just above the Cradle of Forestry in America Forest Discovery Center on US 276.

After the first creek crossing the trail splits, take the left fork.

1.0 mile the Mountains to the Sea Trail crosses. Take this trail to the right.

1.2 miles the other side of the Pink Beds Loop crosses the trail. Take this trail to the right.

Trail meets back at the split, left turn.

Pressley Cove

Trailhead: Pressley Cove Parking Area

Trail Finish: Pressley Cove Parking Area

Blaze Color: Orange

Hiking Distance: 3.5 miles

Time Allowance: 2 hours 30 minutes

Elevation Change: 950 ft.

USGS Map: Pisgah Forest

Trail Description:

The parking area is located immediately after the third bridge on forest road 477 if you are coming from the end near the ranger station.

Across the road from the parking area the trail starts- marked Pressley Cove. Do not take the trail that starts up the mountain immediately. Hike in the flat area parallel to the road until you reach the trees on the far side, that is where Pressley Cove turns up the mountain.

1.1 miles turn left on the logging road. Several old roads intersect; continue downhill and to the left at these intersections.

When you reach the bottom on 477 turn left and follow this back to the parking area.

Shut-In National Trail

USGS Map: Dunsmore Mtn.

The Shut-In Trail follows the historical route built by George Vanderbilt from the French Broad River to his Buck Spring hunting lodge. It was probably named for the many rhododendron thickets through which it passes. Turn off the Blue Ridge Parkway ramp at the junction of NC 191 and immediately turn left onto a dirt road (Forest Service Road 479) go .3 mile and take the first road to the left and continue for .1 mile to a parking lot. Here there should be a trail head sign for the Mountain to Sea Trail. The Shut-In Trail follows the Mtn. To Sea Trail. This hike is a strenuous climb from 2000 ft to 5000 ft with a length of 16.3 miles to the top near Mount Pisgah.

Sycamore Cove – Grassy Road – Starens Branch Loop

USGS Map: Pisgah Forest

Take Hwy. 276 west from Hwy. 64 past Sycamore Flats Picnic area and watch for trail head sign on right. Park past it on the left.

The trail climbs gradually along a brook, crossing it seven times, and is blazed Blue. It descends through a grove of pine and holly to the junction with Grassy Road and Starens Branch. Turn left onto Grassy Road to a point just before it crosses a flowing brook (You may need a guide to find this site); turn into the woods here. You'll pass through what was once a campsite and climb a knoll a little to your left. You are located between two brooks and surrounded by level tent spots.

For the return trip you have two alternatives. Take Grassy Road back to where you entered it and take Starens Branch (blue blazes) trail back down to 276 about 200 yards west of the Sycamore Cove entrance. Be careful on this trail since at one point it makes a sharp, almost reverse left where a white blazed trail goes straight ahead. Stay on the blue trail. Another alternative is to follow the Grassy Road further until you come to an old culvert. Take this white blazed trail to your left until it meets Starens Branch. Take the right, blue blazed fork and you have joined the first trail.

Turkey Pen – South Fork of Mills River

USGS Map: Pisgah Forest

From Hwy. 280 at Henderson-Transylvania County line take dirt road (Turkey Pen Road) NW 1 ¾ miles to parking area at its end. Several trails leave from here.

South Mills River Trail

Take either the trail or old logging road down to the swinging bridge. Immediately after the bridge the trail bears right in a switch-back up to an old logging road. Turn left on this road and follow it past the Mullinax Trail. At an open space on the left there is a trail which branches off almost backwards that leads to a number of camping spots along the river. You can also continue straight for about two miles to other less used areas on the left near the river, or continue for a mile or so further to the Cantrell Creek Lodge area for other campsites.

Wagon Road Gap

Trailhead: Turkeypen Trail Head

Trail Finish: Turkeypen Trail Head

Blaze Color: Orange

Hiking Distance: 5 miles

Difficulty: Difficult

Time Allowance: 3 hours 30 minutes

Elevation Change: 1330 ft.

USGS Map: Pisgah Forest

Trail Description:

The trail head is located on Turkeypen Road off Hwy 280 near the Henderson County and Transylvania County line. Follow the gravel road to the parking area.

Start on Turkey Pen Gap Trail, located between the horse trailer parking area and the car parking area.

Steep climb over Sharpy Mtn. And through several saddles is Wagon Road Gap, trail on the right. Not marked but there is trail definition that runs down from the saddle.

At the bottom of the mountain turn right on S. Mills River.

Go across the river on the swinging bridge, right turn after crossing.

Hard right off the access road to cross another swinging bridge.

Turn right after the swinging bridge.

Follow this up the mountain and back to the parking area.

Pisgah National Forest Recreational Areas

Bald Mountain

Toecane: Take US 19e. West from Burnsville for 6 miles to US 19W, then turn right (north) for 17 miles. Drinking water, hiking, picnicking, and a sanitation facility are provided.

Barkhouse

Grandfather: Go north on US 221 from Marion for 16 miles to Linville Falls, then take NC 183 east for 4 miles, take NC 181 southeast for 5.5 miles. Drinking water, fishing, sanitation facility, picnicking, and hiking are all provided.

Harmon Den

Harmon Den offers 54.5 miles of trails with 14.2 miles of trails designated for horseback riding and 40.3 miles for hiking. In addition, miles of gated, dirt forest roads are open to horses. Other gated roads are not designated for horses. Horses may also be ridden on open roads, but watch for traffic.

Hot Springs

Hot Springs area features 44 miles of trails with 13.4 miles designated for mountain biking. The Laurel River Bike Trail is blazed with yellow rectangles, while other bike trails are only signed. All other Hot Springs area trails are for hiking only.

Silvermine Group Camp is located on Silvermine Creek not far from the French Broad River at Hot Springs.

The camp is open by reservation from May 1-October 31 and provides space for up to 50 people. When you rent the site, you're given a combination

to the camp's gate, so you're the only campers. The camp provides a nice picnic shelter, two large tent pads, two grills, drinking water, and vault toilets. Lovers Leap, Pump Gap, and the Appalachian Trails are nearby. For reservations, call the Hot Springs office at 828-622-3202.

Rocky Bluff Campground, 3 miles south of Hot Springs, is open April 30-October 31 for family camping. This wooded 30-site campground offers tables, grills, lantern posts, tent pads, flush toilets, a picnic area, and solitude. The 1.2-mile Spring Creek Nature Trail circles the campground and meanders beside the creek, an excellent trout stream.

Middle Prong Wilderness

Middle Prong Wilderness lies west of Shining Rock in the Pisgah National Forest. The wilderness is made up of steep and rugged high elevation ridges. Elevations range from 3,200 feet at the west fork of the Pigeon River to 6,400 feet near Richland Balsam. The west fork and middle prong of the Pigeon River are born amid the high valleys of this wilderness and are fed by numerous streams. The 1984 North Carolina Wilderness Act created the 7,460-acre Middle Prong Wilderness.

Shining Rock Wilderness

Shining Rock Wilderness in Pisgah National Forest is made up of a series of high elevation ridges on the north slopes of Pisgah ridge. The terrain is extremely steep and rugged, with elevations ranging from 3,200 feet on the West Fork Pigeon River to 6,030 feet on Cold Mountain.

Shining Rock Ledge, which forms the area's backbone, is over 5,000 feet high, with five peaks at 6,000 feet. Streams and drainages abound to form the east and west forks of Pigeon River, a major tributary of the Tennessee River. Shining Rock was designated a wild area on May 7, 1964. With the signing of the Wilderness Act in 1964 by Congress, Shining Rock became one of the original areas of the National Wilderness System. The 1984 North Carolina Wilderness Act increased the original 13,600 acres to the present 18,483 acres.

Sliding Rock

Pisgah: On US 276, 12 miles north of Brevard. Drinking water, sanitation facility, and swimming are all provided.

Stony Fork

Pisgah: From Asheville, go west on I-40 20 miles to Candler, then go 7.5 miles south on NC 151 to area. Drinking water, fishing, picnicking, and a sanitation facility are all provided.

Sycamore Flats

Pisgah: On US 276, 4 miles north of Brevard. Drinking water, fishing, hiking, picnicking, and a sanitation facility are all provided.

Table Rock

Grandfather: From Linville Falls go east on NC 183 for 4 miles to NC 181, go south for 2 miles and turn right on Forest Service Road 210, go 4.9 miles to Forest Service Road 210B turn right and go 1.6 miles to areas. Hiking, picnicking, and a sanitation facility are provided.

White Pines

Pisgah: From Brevard go north on US 276 for 6 miles to area. Camping, drinking water, fishing, hiking, and a sanitation facility are provided.

Wiseman's View

Grandfather: From Linville Falls go east on NC 183 for 1/2 mile, turn right (south) on NC 1560 and go 4 miles to area. Hiking and a sanitation facility are provided.

Lost Cove

Toecane: From Bumsville go east 5 miles on US 19, turn right, on NC 80 and go south for 12 miles, turn right on Forest Road 472 and go 1 mile to campground. Fishing, picnicking, and a sanitation facility are provided.

Mulberry

Grandfather: From Lenoir take NC 90 northeast for 7 miles to Forest Service 101 and go 5 miles northeast. Picnicking and a sanitation facility are provided.

Murray Branch

French Broad: From Hot springs go 1/2 miles west on US 25-70, turn left on NC 1304 and go 4 miles to area. Boating, fishing, picnicking, and a sanitation facility are provided.

Old Fort

Grandfather: Take US 70 west from Old Fort for 2.5 miles. Drinking water, fishing, hiking, picnicking, and a sanitation facility are provided.

Pink Beds

Pisgah: On US 276, 16 miles north of Brevard (4 miles south of intersection with Blue Ridge Parkway). Drinking water, hiking, picnicking, and a sanitation facility are provided.

Carolina Hemlocks Recreation Area

Carolina Hemlocks Recreation Area offers two paved loops that are lined with 36 campsites. Split by NC 80, the loops have camping sites for tents, cars, and recreational vehicles. Each site includes a table, fire ring with cooking grill, and lantern post. No hookups are available. Drinking water and flush toilets are in each loop. Besides camping at Carolina Hemlocks Recreation Area, people can fish, swim, and tube on the South Toe River or hike adjacent trails. A large picnic pavilion can be reserved. DATES OPEN: April 14 to October 31. Campground & day-use fees apply

Coontree Creek

Pisgah: Take US 276 north from Brevard 9 miles. Drinking water, fishing, hiking, picnicking, and a sanitation facility are provided.

Corner Rock

Toecane: From Asheville go north 10 miles on US 19-23, exit on NC 197 and go east 5 miles To Barnardsville, turn right on Forest Road 231 and go 4 miles to area. Picnicking is available.

Cradle of Forestry in America

Pisgah: On US 276, 15 miles north of Brevard, 4 miles south of intersection with Blue Ridge Parkway. Drinking water, hiking, and a sanitation facility are provided.

Cradle of Forestry in America - www.cradleofforestry.com/ (v14)

Curtis Creek

Grandfather: Take US 70 east from Old Fort 1.7 miles; turn north on Forest Service Road 482. Camping, drinking water, fishing, hiking, picnicking, and a sanitation facility are provided.

Davidson River

Pisgah: From Brevard take US 276 north for 5 miles. Camping, drinking water, fishing, hiking, sanitation facility, trailer dump station, and trailer space are provided.

Roan Mountain

Famous for its spectacular natural gardens of Catawba rhododendrons, Roan Mountain shelters a rich diversity of life, from spruce-fir forests to vast grassy balds. Roan Mountain is actually not one mountain, but a high ridge about 5 miles long. It ranges from a height of 6,286 feet at Roan High Knob to a low of 5,500 feet at Carver's Gap.

TRAILS: An easy, paved trail starts at the information cabin and winds through rhododendrons to an overlook. You can choose between a short, 0.3-mile loop or continue on a longer, figure-eight loop. The **Cloudland Trail** is a moderate, 1.2-mile hike from the end of the Cloudland parking area to Roan High Bluff Overlook. The **Appalachian Trail** crosses Roan Mountain on its trek from Maine to Georgia.

Take NC 261 north from Bakersville, NC, or follow TN 143 south from Roan Mountain, TN. The highway crosses Roan Mountain at Carver's Gap. The 2-mile road from Carver's Gap to the gardens is open from May until late October. Even after the road is gated, cross-country skiers and hikers are welcome to explore the winter beauty of Roan Mountain.

Bob Allison Picnic Area; Take US 19-129 east from Andrews for one mile until the junction of Junaluska Road (NC 1505) turn right onto Junaluska Road for about five miles. Then turn south onto Forest Service Road #440 and go six miles to the picnic area. This picnic area offers water, facilities, hiking, camping and picnicking.

Lake Powhatan; located at the heart of the Bent Creek Experimental Forest, is administered by the Pisgah Ranger District of the Pisgah National Forest. The campground and swimming areas are maintained by the Cradle of Forestry in America Interpretive Association.

Other National Forests



Panthertown Valley

Contents

A – Nantahala National Forest

1- National Forests Index

2- Appletree Trail

Bartram Trail

3- Fires Creek Rim Trail

Horse Pasture

4- Panthertown Valley

Pickens Nose

5- Joyce Kilmer Memorial Trail

6- Recreation and Camping

B – Uwharrie National Forest

1- Campgrounds

C – Croatan National Forest

NANTAHALA NATIONAL FOREST

Address 100 Otis Street, Box 2750

Asheville NC, 28801

Phone: (828) 257-4200

Nantahala is an Indian word that means "Land of the Noonday Sun", so called because the deep gorges do not let the sun shine to the bottom until late in the morning. It was inhabited by the Cherokee Indians for hundreds of years and explored by Hernando DeSoto in 1540. Nantahala is an area filled with natural and cultural heritage. It offers picturesque waterfalls, beautiful mountain landscapes, and large mountain reservoirs. These and many other things contribute to the wide variety of recreational opportunities in North Carolina's largest national forest.

Popular Hiking Trails in Nantahala National Forest

Appletree Trail

USGS Map: Topton

Follow the directions to the Appletree Camp located under the recreational campsites. Once at the Apple Tree Camp locate the yellow blazes right of the branch on an old road. Follow the yellow blazed road for .3 mile then cross the branch and pass the blue blazed Junaluska Trail to the left. Cross the stream again at .7 mile. Later the trail passes by a faint road junction up a gradual grade. Just after the first mile the Apple Tree Trail meets with the green blazed Laurel Creek Trail which is to the right. A few tenths of a mile down the road, the Apple Tree Trail junctions with Diamond Valley Trail which is on the left. Passing by the Diamond Valley Trail, the Apple Tree Trail climbs over two knobs and reaches the summit on the third peak. The total mileage is 1.7 miles of strenuous climbing. Here the trail junctions with the London Bald Trail which has a blue blaze. To return back to Apple Tree Camp backtrack, or turn left onto the London Bald Trail for 6.5 miles to Junaluska Gap. Stay right and keep following London Bald Trail another 2.2 miles to the junction with the Nantahala Trail. Follow the Nantahala Trail back to Apple Tree Camp. This loop trail from the third summit adds an additional 11.5 miles for a total of 13 miles.

Bartram Trail

The Bartram Trail is a national recreation trail that travels across the mountains of South Carolina, Georgia, and the Nantahala National Forest in North Carolina. In North Carolina, it stretches 71 miles from near Highlands to the Snowbird Mountains, south of Robbinsville. The trail is named after William Bartram, a naturalist who roamed the southern woods in 1775. He studied plants and animals and recorded his findings in a journal published as *The Travels of William Bartram*. The trail is blazed in yellow in the Nantahala National Forest, with many side trails, blazed in blue, leading to views of the Blue Ridge and the Smokies.

The Trail enters North Carolina just south of Highlands, near Rabun Bald, taking up where the Georgia Bartram Trail leaves off. The trail curves in a north-to-west direction through Western North Carolina; Thru-hikers must follow a series of country roads into Franklin. In Franklin, the Bartram Trail turns west and ascends the Nantahala Mountains to Wayah Bald, which, at 5385 feet, is the highest point on the trail. The trail joins the Appalachian Trail briefly, then descends to Nantahala Lake. Continuing mainly on private lands from the Lake, the trail reaches Appletree Campground in the upper Nantahala Gorge, then climbs up and over Rattlesnake Knob before reaching the "put in" on the Nantahala River. From the river, the Trail climbs to the summit of Cheoah Bald, and ends there.

Fires Creek Rim Trail

The 25-mile Rim Trail follows the ridge around Fires Creek Wildlife Management Area—a mecca for backpackers and those who like primitive camping. The trail, marked with blue blazes, has several access roads and trails. Camping is offered at Huskins Branch Hunter and Bristol Horse Camps. Dispersed camping sites are along Forest Service Road 340.

This 26-mile trail system follows the rim of the mountains that surround the Jack Rabbit recreation area. To access the trail from Jack Rabbit, take NC 175 north for 3.25 miles to U.S. 64. Turn west on NC 64 and go about 4 miles to Hayesville. Turn right on NC Business 64 and go 1.05 miles into Hayesville. Turn left on SR 1307. Go 1 mile and turn left on SR 1300. Travel 5 miles and turn right on FR 340. Trailhead is 1.8 miles.

Horse Pasture River

USGS Map: Reid

Note: Waterfall deaths occur yearly in western NC - Do not approach the top of a waterfall!!

The Horsepasture River has a nice series of falls all in a short 1.5 mile stretch. The entire river is filled with rocks and cascades and is quite interesting. This is a great place to go waterfall hunting. The Horsepasture river can be accessed from Gorges State Park. The park is located on NC-281 between US-64 and the South Carolina border (From US 64 turn south at Sapphire on Route 181.).

The Horsepasture River is actually outside of the park. You can park at the park's parking area, and then walk back to NC-281, take a left, and you will find a trailhead a short distance down the road on the left (apparently the State Park does not mind if you leave your car in their parking lot, just do not leave it overnight). Follow the trail until you reach the river. The trail is rough, rocky and steep at points. It's about a 15-20 minute hike from the parking lot, and you'll come out above Turtleback Falls. Drift Falls is actually the first main falls on the river. To get to it, take the trail to the right and follow it upstream for about 10-15 minutes. People used to slide down the 60-70ft incline and the falls was referred to as Bust Yer Butt Falls. If you head left (downstream), you will reach Turtleback Falls, Rainbow Falls and Stairway Falls. Further downstream there are even more falls, but the trails become extremely difficult or vanish altogether. It makes sense to see Drift Falls first, and then work your way downstream until you have had enough. You definitely will want to see Rainbow Falls. About 10 minutes below Rainbow, there is a large campsite. The trail crosses a brook on the other side of the site and leaves the river for a while. It then returns to the river further down near Windy Falls. Use Caution when in the area.

Warning! The main trail along the Horsepasture River and the short spur trails to the waterfalls can be dangerous. Rain and ice make the trail surface treacherous, especially where bare rock or precipitous ledges occur. Drift Falls and Turtleback Falls may offer good swimming opportunities, but deaths have occurred when swimmers were knocked unconscious against the rocks and then drowned in the deep pools. Some swimmers, unable to stop after sliding down Turtleback, have been swept to their deaths over Rainbow Falls just downstream (twice in 2003 alone!), and hikers stepping too close to the top of Rainbow Falls have plummeted to their deaths, as well.

Panthertown Valley

To gain access from the east side, take 281 north from Hwy 64 a mile or so then turn left onto Cold Mountain Road, which winds past Lake Toxaway, then turns into gravel and heads up the mountain. (If you look at the telephone poles on the way up you will see small numbers on yellow and black tags. Just past pole #61 on the left - 4.5 miles from 281 - you can park and follow a trail down to Raven Rock Falls. The trailhead is past the pole and its well worth the 1/2 mile or so hike). Keep going up Cold Mountain and at 5.7 miles total you'll see that the road straight ahead is now gated (the old entrance), but you can take a left and head up the road a few hundred yards to a single lane drive on the right leading to a parking area.

Access from the west side is reached by driving 8 miles on Hwy 64 west from the 281 south intersection to Cedar Creek Road. Take a right, go 2.3 miles and take a right on Breedlove Road, then almost 4 miles to the parking area. Near the end, the road changes to dirt and has some pretty major bumps and dips.

Panthertown is home to granite domes, waterfalls, valley floors and rare high altitude bogs. The area is a maze of unmarked trails going off in every direction, and holds the headwaters for Greenland and Panthertown Creeks and the East Fork of the Tuckaseegee River. The valley was heavily logged in the 30's and suffered major fires and erosion in the 60's, so there are almost no old growth trees left. Despite this and Duke Power running a major power line through the area in the late 80's, Panthertown Valley has made a comeback and is now home to a wide variety of flora and fauna, including the carnivorous sundew plant. Some of the plants are rare, so please stick to the trails, don't trample vegetation, and try to avoid the moss and lichens growing on the rock faces in the higher altitudes.

www.ncwaterfalls.com/panther1.htm (^{v14})

www.slickrockexpeditions.com/map_request.htm (^{v14})- form to order map (also available at Highland Books in Brevard & various outfitting stores)

Pickens Nose Trail

USGS Map: Prentiss

The Pickens Nose Trail is an easy 1.4 mile trip with great views and a rock climbing area. From Standing Indian Recreational Area drive an additional 6.7 miles on forest service road 67 up the mountain to a parking lot on the left side of the road (the parking lot is .7 mile beyond the Appalachian Trail crossing at Mooney Gap). Cross the road and ascend then level onto a rocky ridge. Hike for .7 mile to the vista at Pickens Nose, which is around 5000 ft. The area is beautifully colored in the month of June when the rhododendron's colorful bloom is at its peak. Backtrack to return.

Joyce Kilmer Memorial Trail

USGS Map: Santeetlah Creek

The Joyce Kilmer Memorial Trail is quite possibly the best short hike in North Carolina. It is considered by many as a jewel in the crown of the Nantahala National Forest. It is an easy 2 mile figure 8 loop that travels through one of the few remaining tracts of virgin hardwood forests in the Appalachians. 3800 acres of this primeval forest were dedicated as a living memorial to Joyce Kilmer the poet. He died in World War One and was best known for his poem "Trees".

From the parking area of the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest and picnic area at the end of FR416, follow the trail signs and ascend alongside cascading Little Santeetly Creek to cross a footbridge. Log seats for rest and contemplation are along the trail in this primeval forest of mosses, rhododendron, hemlock, yellow poplar, fetterbush, trillium, cohosh, wood sorrel and crested dwarf iris. At the junction with Poplar Cove Trail is a sign that indicates Alfred Joyce Kilmer was born in New Brunswick, New Jersey, December 6, 1886 and killed in action in France, July 30, 1918. The grove of yellow poplar is the most spectacular feature on the trails, many are 16 to 21 ft. in circumference and over 100 ft. tall. Cross another footbridge over Little Santeetlah Creek on the return loop to the parking lot. Total distance is 1.9 easy miles. From Robbinsville, NC take Rt. 143 North towards the Cherohala Skyway. Approx 5 - 6 miles past Robbinsville turn right at the sign for state road 1127 just before the Skyway. There is a large green sign pointing the way. The parking lot at the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Trail is closed after dark.

Nantahala National Forest Recreational and Camping Areas

Apple Tree Group Camp

Wayah: Take US 19-1 29 east from Andrews for 1 mile to Junaluska Rd. (NC 1505), turn right (South) on Junaluska Road for about 10 miles. Camping, drinking water, fishing, hiking, and a sanitation facility are all provided.

Arrowood Glade

Wayah: Take US 19 east from Franklin for 5 miles, turn right (west) on NC 1310 (Wayah Bald Rd.) for 3 miles. Drinking water, fishing, hiking, picnicking, and a sanitation facility are all provided.

Bob Allison

Tusquitee: Take US 19 east from Andrews for 1 mile, turn southeast on NC 1505 (Junaluska Road) for 5 miles, then turn south on Forest Service Road. 440 and go 6 miles to area. Drinking water, fishing, hiking, picnicking, and a sanitation facility are all provided.

Cable Grove

Cheoah: Take NC 28 east from Fontana Village for 4.7 miles, turn left (north) on Forest Service Road 520 for 1.4 miles. Boating, camping, drinking water, fishing, hiking, a sanitation station, and trailer space are all provided.

Cheoah Point

Cheoah: Take US 129 North from Robbinsville for 7 miles; turn left on NC 129, then go 0.8 miles on NC 129. Boating, camping, drinking water, fishing, hiking, a sanitation station, and trailer space are all provided.

Cliffside Lake

Cliffside Lake Recreation Area offers two covered picnic shelters that must be reserved, a bathhouse with cold showers, a lake for fishing and swimming, a gazebo, and six short hiking trails. Some trails lead to waterfalls.

Ferebee Memorial

Cheoah: From Bryson City go west on US 19 for 16 miles. Boating, fishing, picnicking, and a sanitation facility are all provided at the campsite.

Hanging Dog

Tusquitee: Take NC 1326 (Joe Brown Highway) Northeast from Murphy for 5 miles. Boating, camping, drinking water, fishing, hiking, sanitation center, and trailer space are all provided.

Horse Cove

Cheoah: From Robbinsville go northwest on US 129 for 8 miles, turn left on NC 1134 and go 2.5 miles, turn left on Forest Road 416 and go 3.7 miles to area. Camping, drinking water, fishing, hiking, sanitation facility, and trailer space are all provided.

Jackrabbit Mountain

Bordering the 13-mile long Chatuge Lake, Jackrabbit Mountain Recreation Area is a great mountain getaway and offers a bounty of outdoor recreation, from waterskiing to fishing to camping.

Located on the Nantahala National Forest of Clay County, Jackrabbit Mountain Recreation Area lies on a peninsula of Lake Chatuge—a man-made reservoir that boasts over 130 miles of shoreline. Touted as the crown jewel of Tennessee Valley Authority’s system of lakes, Lake Chatuge is an impoundment of the Hiwassee River. Similar to a Swiss alpine lake setting, the lake has a gradual shoreline with a backdrop of mountains.

Joyce Kilmer

Cheoah: From Robbinsville go northwest on US 129 for 8 miles, turn left on NC 1134 and go 2.5 miles, turn left on Forest Road 416 and go 3.7 miles, turn right on Forest Road 305 and go to the end of the road. Drinking water, hiking, picnicking, and a sanitation facility are provided.

Kimsey Creek Group Camp

Wayah: From Franklin go west on US 64 for 12 miles, exit on old US 64 and go east 2 miles, turn right (south) on Forest Service Road 67 and go 2 miles to area. Camping, drinking water, fishing, hiking, and a sanitation facility are provided at the site.

Lake Cherokee

Tusquitee: Take US 64 southwest from Murphy for 8 miles, and then turn right (northwest) on NC 294 for 3 miles. Drinking water, fishing, hiking, picnicking, and a sanitation facility are all provided.

The Mountain Waters Scenic Byway

The Mountain Waters Scenic Byway is a 61.3-mile drive that winds through hardwood forest, two river gorges, and countryside. Traveling from Highlands to Almond, the byway follows U.S. 64, old U.S. 64, SR 1310 (Wayah Road), and U.S. 19/74.

Nantahala River Gorge

The Nantahala River is located in the Nantahala National Forest and flows from Macon County into Swain County, North Carolina. The Nantahala River Gorge occupies approximately 9 miles of the Nantahala River from the Beechertown power plant to the upper reaches of Fontana Lake. The Nantahala River Gorge is managed by the Wayah Ranger District of the USDA Forest Service. The river allows for a variety of recreational activities to occur within the rivers corridor including rafting, canoeing, kayaking, picnicking, fishing, hiking, viewing, camping, and photography.

Wayah: From Bryson City go west on US 19 for 16 miles. Boating, fishing, and a sanitation facility are all provided.

Rattler Ford

Cheoah: From Robbinsville go northwest on US 128 for 8 miles, turn left on NC 1134 and go 2.5 miles; turn left on Forest Road 416 and go 4 miles to area. Camping, drinking water, fishing, hiking, and a sanitation facility are provided.

Snowbird

Cheoah: From Robbinsville take US 129 north 1.1 miles, turn left on, NC 1116 and go 3.5 miles to NC 1127, turn right and go 1.3 miles. Fishing, hiking, picnicking, and a sanitation facility are provided.

Standing Indian Recreation Area

From the town of Franklin (located between the junction of US 64, US 441, US 28) take US 64 go two miles and make a right turn on forest road #67 and go two additional miles to the recreational area. This site is open year round, however, a small fee may be required. This campsite offers water, facilities, fishing, camping and hiking. Available on a first-come-first-served basis.

Tsali Recreation Area

Challenging—that's the best word to describe the 42 miles of Tsali Trails, rated as "more difficult." Suited for hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders, the 4-loop system offers a variety of landscapes. You can climb 1-foot wide rugged paths or travel flat, well-beaten roads. The four trails—Right, Left, Mouse Branch, and Thompson Loops—meander through mixed pine and hardwoods on a peninsula stretching into Fontana Lake. Hikers may travel the trails on any day, but mountain bikers and equestrians, the primary users, are kept separated by alternating use of the trails. A schedule is posted at all trailheads.

Van Hook Glade

Van Hook Glade Campground's 20 camping sites have parking spurs, fireplaces, tables, and tent pads. Five sites are for tents only, and the other 16 sites accommodate RV's up to 34 feet.

Wayah Bald

Wayah: Take US 64 southwest from Franklin for 5 miles; turn right (west) on Wayah Bald Road. (NC 1310) for 10 miles, turn right (north) on Forest Service Road 69 for 6 miles. Hiking, picnicking, and a sanitation facility are provided.

Wayah Crest

Wayah: Take US 64 southwest from Franklin for 5 miles, turn right (west) on NC 1310 and go 10 miles to area. Hiking, picnicking, and a sanitation facility are provided.

Whiteside mountain

A landmark along the eastern continental divide, Whiteside mountain rises to an elevation of 4,930 feet. The mountain's cliffs, look like sheets of rock is about 390 to 460 million years old. **Attractions:** A 2-mile loop trail climbs above sheer 750-foot high cliffs and offers outstanding views to the east, south, and west. Whiteside Mountain Trail is rated "more difficult" because of its steepness. Along your journey to the top, you can spot a variety of wildflowers- including false Solomons-seal, white snakeroot, and dwarf dandelion. **Location:** Whiteside Mountain is located south of U.S. 64 between Highlands and Cashiers.

Whitewater Falls

With a 411-foot plunge, Whitewater Falls in North Carolina is the highest waterfall east of the Rocky Mountains. South Carolina's Lower Whitewater Falls drops another 400 feet. Reflecting the escarpment's steep, rugged terrain, much of the Whitewater Falls area receives few visitors and has remained wild and undeveloped over the years. From Asheville take I-26E and exit 40 (Asheville Airport). Turn right on NC 280W. After 16 miles, NC 280W becomes U.S. 64W in Brevard. Stay on U.S. 64W. Turn left on NC 281S at Sapphire, and go 9 miles. Turn left into Whitewater Falls entrance.

Uwharrie National Forest

789 NC hwy. 24/27 East

Troy, NC 27371-9332

(910)-576-6391

The Uwharrie National Forest was first purchased by the federal government in 1931 during the Great Depression. The land was known as the Uwharrie Reservation. In 1961, President John F. Kennedy proclaimed these federal lands in Montgomery, Randolph, and Davidson Counties the Uwharrie National Forest. It is one of the most recently formed in the National Forest System.

Though small, at only 50,189 acres, the Uwharrie provides a variety of natural resources, including clean rivers and streams, diverse vegetation for scenery, wildlife habitat and wood products. There is also a wide variety of recreational activities, and the Forest is a natural setting for tourism and economic development.

The **Uwharrie Trail** winds over the Piedmont's highest ridgetops for 21 miles through the Uwharrie National Forest. The trail intersects three State roads, where trailheads provide access, as it travels south from SR 1306 to NC 24/27. White blazes mark the trail.

Badin Lake Trail

Beginning at Cove Boat Ramp (near Badin Lake Campground- see below), the trail follows Badin Lake's shore for half of its distance and loops back through hardwood forest to the boat ramp. You can hike a 2.5 mile-loop or tackle the entire 5.6-mile trail. The area is covered in cedars, mosses, and wildflowers. Hikers will notice evidence of past gold mining.

Uwharrie National Forest Campgrounds Information: 910-576-6391

Arrowhead

Arrowhead Campground has 50 sites for Tent/RV camping. All sites are accessible to people with disabilities. Each site has a table, grill, lamp post and camping pad. The campground has 6 spigots located around the campground for drinking water. A bathhouse with flush toilets, hot showers, and laundry sink is available. There is a family restroom located at the front of the bathhouse if privacy is desired. A 0.75-mile paved bicycle/walking path loops around the campground. The pay-station is located at the entrance to the campground.

From Troy, Hwy 109 N, go to Mullinix Rd. just past Macedonia Church. Turn left onto Mullinix Rd., and continue past Horse Camp. Turn right on FR 544 for 1.8 miles, then, turn left on FR 597 for 0.6 mile. Turn right on FR 597B to the entrance of the campground.

Badin Lake Campground

Badin Lake Campground has 37 sites for tent and trailer camping. Some sites are located directly on the lakeshore. Each site has a table, grill, lamp post, and tent pad. There are 4 water spigots for drinking water located in the both loop. Flush toilets and showers are located in both the upper and lower loops. Pay stations are located at the entrance of both loops.

On Hwy 109 North, go to Mullinix Rd. just past Macedonia Church. Turn left (from 109 S. turn right on to Mullinix Rd.) and continue past Horse Camp. Turn right on FR 544 for 1.8 miles, then turn Right onto FR 597 for 0.1 miles. Then turn left on FR 597A. Take the road to the left leading to Badin Lake Campground (2 loops). Upper loop turns off to the left; lower loop is located at the end of the road.

Badin Lake Group Camp

Badin Group Camp was developed for use by clubs, families and other groups. The camp includes three separate areas each with tables, grills and tent pads. Two toilet facilities, water spigots and showers are centrally located to serve all three sites. A \$40.00 fee is charged per site per night. Reservations must be made prior to camping in this area. Each site has a 15-35 person capacity. To make reservations call 877-444-6777 (toll free); TDD 877-833-6777; or visit the website at www.reserveUSA.com.^(v14)

From Hwy. 109 north of Uwharrie, follow signs to Badin Lake recreation facilities. Badin Group Camp is on the right side of FR 597A, just beyond the turn-off to the Badin Lake Campground.

West Morris Mtn.

There are 18 campsites available at this location. Two toilet buildings are located within the camping area. All sites have a table, grill, lamppost and camping pad. These sites are suitable for either tents or RV's. There is no water at this location.

From Hwy 109, at the crossroads hamlet of Uwharrie, take Ophir Road (SR 1134). West Morris Mountain Camp is 2 miles on the right.

Uwharrie Hunt Camp

Uwharrie Hunt Camp has eight sites for tent camping. Each site has a table, grill, and tent pad. Toilet facilities are provided in the campground.

From Troy, on Hwy 109 North turn left on SR 1153. Uwharrie Hunt Camp is on the right.

Yates Place

Yates Place Camp was an old home site, but now serves as an attractive destination for tent and trailer camping. A toilet, tables, and grills are available at the site.

From Hwy 109 West of Troy, take SR 1147 and turn right on SR 1146. Yates Place is on the left.

Croatan National Forest

**141 E. Fisher Ave.
New Bern, N.C. 28650
252-638-5628**

The Croatan National Forest's 161,000 acres of land offer an exciting variety of opportunities. You can camp under the pines, canoe past giant cypress trees hung with Spanish moss, or stroll boardwalks over salt marshes and view wading herons. The Croatan's wide diversity of ecosystems ranges from freshwater pocosins to longleaf pine savannas to salt marsh. With such an array of habitats, it's no surprise that the Croatan is home to a variety of wildlife: waterfowl, wading birds, deer, bears, snakes, and alligators.

Cedar Point Tideland Trail, a National Recreation Trail, includes a 0.6-mile loop and a 1.3-mile loop that provide excellent opportunities to view wildlife and explore the salt marsh and adjoining forest. Interpretive signs along the short loop tell the story of the ever changing salt marsh. The trail meanders through pine and hardwood forests damaged by Hurricanes Bertha and Fran in 1996. Boardwalks cross marshes and open water and offer views of wading birds and other wildlife. The Tidelands Trail is at Cedar Point in the southwest corner of the Croatan National Forest. Cedar Point Recreation Area offers camping, picnicking, a ramp for small boats, a fishing pier, canoeing, and kayaking.

Croatan Saltwater Adventure Trail

The proposed Saltwater Adventure Trail is unique in that it is the only national forest saltwater trail in the nation. It is a water-based trail that displays the unique ecosystems and history of the eastern coastal tidelands. The trip provides visits to several points of interest, is suitable for novices, and can take as long as seven days. The route is approximately 100 miles long and nearly circumvents the Croatan National Forest. Recreational opportunities are numerous. The focus of this trail is adventure, exploration, accessibility and a unique setting. Many of the features along the trail can also be accessed by car.

Neuse River Recreation Area

The Neuse River Recreation Area offers a range of recreation, from camping and picnicking to hiking, biking and fishing. The area's sandy beach is perfect for sunbathing, swimming and playing in the water.

For more information:

Croatan National Forest, 141 E. Fisher Ave., New Bern, N.C. 28650; 252-638-5628. The ranger station is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The **Neusiok Trail** travels 22 miles through the east side of the Croatan National Forest. It goes from a cypress-lined, sandy beach on the Neuse River, south through bottomland hard-woods and thick pocosin, to a beautiful estuary of the Newport River. The Neusiok Trail is part of the 900-mile Mountains-to-Sea Trail that begins in Great Smoky Mountains National Park and ends in Jockey Ridge State Park at the ocean. The Mountains-to-Sea Trail is blazed with white circles. Camping is allowed anywhere along the trail. Trail users must pack out their trash. Hikers need to wear boots to cross several wet areas and must carry drinking water. Most people prefer fall, winter, and early spring hiking to avoid the heat, insects, and snakes.

Length & Difficulty: 20.4 miles, easy

U.S.G.S. quad maps: Cherry Point, Core Creek, Newport

Trailheads: • **North terminus**—Pine Cliff.

Beside NC 306, about two miles from NC 101 on the right.

• **South terminus**—Oyster Point.

Directions to Neusiok Trailhead:

To south terminus, Oyster Point: In Newport, follow Chatham St. for 2.8 miles to Market St. and turn left. Follow Market St. to Mill Creek Rd. (SR 1154). Go 7.1 miles to Oyster Point Rd. (FR 181). Turn right for one mile.

To north terminus: From Havelock, turn onto NC 101 and go 5.3 miles to Ferry Rd. (NC 306). Turn left on NC 306 and go 3.3 miles to Forest Road 132. Turn left on unpaved road. Go 1.7 miles to Pine Cliff Picnic Area at road's end.

For more information contact: Croatan National Forest, 141 E. Fisher Avenue
New Bern, NC 28560, 252-638-5628.

Camping in Croatan NF

Reservations- 252-638-5628.

CATFISH LAKE

Open all year. From MAYSVILLE, take NC 58E. Turn left on SR 1105 (turns to dirt) to FR 158, turn left. No facilities, no fee

CEDAR POINT

Open all year. From MAYSVILLE, off NC 58, 1 mile north of the junction of NC 24 and NC 58. Electricity at all sites. Boat ramp, fishing pier. Fee area

FISHERS LANDING

Open all year. From NEW BERN, take US 70E about 10 miles. turn left at sign, 0.5 mile north of office.
TENTS only. No fee.

GREAT LAKE

Open all year. From MAYSVILLE, take NC 58E. Turn left on SR 110 (turns to gravel). Continue to FR 126. Paved boat ramp. No fee.

LONG POINT

Open all year. From MAYSVILLE, take NC 58E. Turn right on FR 120. On the White Oak River. Picnic tables, accessible pier. Fee area.

NEUSE RIVER (Also called Flanners Beach)

Open all year. From NEW BERN, take U.S. 70E about 12 miles. About 2 miles south of Croatan Ranger office, turn left on SR 1107 & go 1.5 miles.

14 sites with electricity. extra \$\$ for electricity. Fee area.

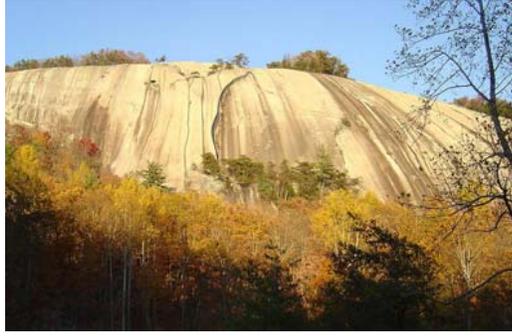
OYSTER POINT

Open all year. From NEWPORT, take SR 1154 to FR 181, & turn right. Neusiok Trailhead. Shallow water at ramp. Fee area

SIDDIE FIELDS

Open all year. From HAVELOCK, take NC 101 for 4.7 miles to Ferry Rd. & turn left. Go 3.2 miles to Pine Cliff Rd. (gravel) & turn right. At FR 167, turn left & bear left. No facilities. No fee.

State Parks and State Forests



North Carolina State Forests & Educational State Forests (ESF)

Dupont State Forest – 2	Holmes ESF – 5	Rendezvous Mountain ESF – 6
Tuttle ESF – 6	Mountain Island ESF – 7	Jordan Lake ESF – 7
Clemmons ESF – 8	Turnbull Creek ESF – 8	

Western North Carolina State Parks

Crowder's Mountain – 9	Mount Jefferson - 10	South Mountains - 11
Gorges - 9	Mt. Mitchell - 10	Stone Mountain - 12
Hanging Rock - 9	New River - 11	
Lake James - 10	Pilot Mountain - 11	

Central North Carolina State Parks

Eno River - 13	Lake Norman - 14	Weymouth Woods - 15
Falls Lake - 13	Medoc Mountain - 14	William B. Umstead - 16
Jordan Lake - 13	Morrow Mountain - 15	
Kerr Lake - 14	Raven Rock - 15	

Eastern North Carolina State Parks

Carolina Beach - 17	Hammocks Beach - 18	Lumber River - 20
Cliffs of the Neuse - 17	Jockey's Ridge - 19	Merchant's Millpond - 20
Fort Fisher - 17	Jones Lake - 19	Pettigrew - 20
Fort Macon, Goose Creek - 18	Lake Waccamaw - 19	Singletary Lake - 21

North Carolina State Forests

Dupont State Forest - <http://www.dupontforest.com> (√14)

The DuPont State Forest is located in the Blue Ridge Mountains between Hendersonville and Brevard, North Carolina. Its 10,400 acres of forest feature four major waterfalls on the Little River and several on the Grassy Creek. The original 7,600 acre forest was established in 1996 through a generous bargain sale from the DuPont Corporation. In 2000, the Forest was expanded by two property additions, including the spectacular 2200 acre tract in the center of the Forest containing High Falls, Triple Falls, and Bridal Veil Falls. The property is presently open to hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking (see maps, trail guide and user policies at <http://www.dupontforest.com>). (√14)

Located southeast of Brevard in the Blue Ridge Mountains, the 10,400 acre Dupont State Forest (DSF) offers almost 100 miles of trails and several unique waterfalls and other attractions. Some trails pass over large expanses of solid rock on large granite domes. Others twist through the woods, offering more traditional Carolina style. Trails are multi-use (biking, hiking, and equestrian) and they are well signed and well marked.

There are five main parking areas at DSF: at Guion Farm, Hooker Falls, Buck Forest Gate, Fawn Lake, and Corn Mill Shoals. Each has portable toilet facilities and an information board, displaying good advice for using the area, rules and regulations, events, and a good map.

The DuPont State Forest can be accessed from Hendersonville via Kanuga/Crab Creek Rd, from Asheville/Brevard via US64 and Little River Rd, or from Greenville/Brevard via Cedar Mountain and Cascade Lake Rd.

Equestrian Use

We are very fortunate for the opportunity to participate in a multiple use trail plan. DuPont's trails are used by hikers, bikers, horseback riders, fishermen, and hunters (during season). The hunting schedule is posted on the website. During hunting season, other user groups are encouraged to use trails in the hunting safety zone. (See trail use section on web site.) Multiple use allows all visitors of the forest access to the many wonderful trails at DuPont State Forest.

To assure continued equestrian usage of trails, it is extremely important that equestrians show good citizenship. All trails are open to horses except for Triple Falls Trail past the picnic shelter and a few foot trails that are clearly marked. Use Galax Trail as an alternate route to Triple Falls. Equestrians are asked to keep their horses at least 50 ft. from picnic shelters and other structures. Tie-outs for horses are provided near the waterfalls and other points of interest.



Equestrians at horse barn.

Mountain Biking in Dupont



Slick Rock

DuPont State Forest is fast becoming one of the leading mountain bike destinations in Western North Carolina. Our forest offers over 80 miles of trail, nearly all of which is open to both equestrians and mountain bikers. DuPont offers everything from gentle forest roads to exciting single track, with an impressive variety of scenic attractions located only minutes apart.

Fishing on DuPont State Forest

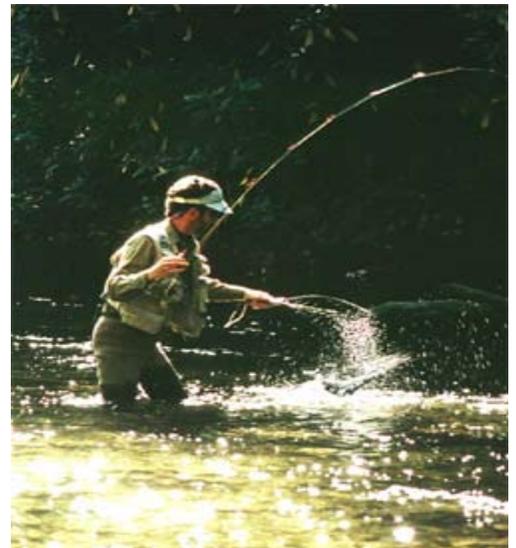
The waters of DuPont State Forest are divided into three categories: impoundments, warm water streams and cold water streams.

Impoundments - DuPont State Forest has five lakes or ponds that are classified for general fishing. To fish the lakes, anglers over 16 years old must possess a basic state fishing license. Warm water game fish such as largemouth bass, bluegill, and redbreast sunfish are found in Lake Julia, Lake Dense and Fawn Lake. Nutrient levels are typically lower in the headwaters of streams, so the lakes at DuPont State Forest, like most mountain lakes, do not produce as many fish as lakes lower in the watershed. The N.C. Wildlife Commission has plans to stock bluegill in Fawn Lake at some future date. Lake Imaging and Lake Alfred are small and do not contain as many cacheable size fish as the larger lakes.

Warm water streams - These are the larger streams that do not support trout year around. Little River below Bridal Veil Falls and the lower portions of Hooker Creek, Reasonover Creek are considered warm water streams. Little River from the outflow from Lake Dense to Hooker Falls is in the NC Wildlife Commission's delayed harvest program. This portion of the river is stocked with trout, but anglers must catch and release the trout from October through May. Trout caught from June 1 through September 30 may be kept.

Cold water streams - About half of the streams on DuPont State Forest contain cold water fish communities characterized by the presents of trout. Rainbow, brook and brown trout can be found in many of these streams. Rainbow trout are the most widespread followed by brook trout and brown trout.

All streams on DuPont State Forest are classified as wild trout waters with the exception of the delayed harvest area. Trout fishermen must possess a special trout fishing license, in addition to the basic fishing license. Fishing is prohibited within 300 feet of the top of all waterfalls. Night fishing is prohibited in all waters on the DuPont State Forest Game Lands. Anglers must obey all fishing regulations and should refer to the "North Carolina Inland Fishing, Hunting and Trapping Regulations Digest" for additional information.



Dupont State Forest Public Use Policies

Use	Present Policy	Contact:
Picnic Shelter Rental	Picnic Shelters are available for rental. Includes limited number of vehicle passes through gates. Fee depends on size of shelter. (i.e. Triple Falls \$50; High Falls \$25). Reservations are for the entire day (9-5).	Contact Forest Resources Management to make reservation- 828-877-6527
Vehicle Passes to Waterfalls	Vehicle passes are available by reservation for disabled persons unable to hike to the waterfalls or other destinations. Reservations may be made between 9am and 5pm for any days except Mondays and Tuesdays. No charge.	Contact Forest Resources Management to make reservation- 828-877-6527
Hiking	This property is open to the public for hiking.	For hiking information, email Aleen Steinberg at chickasaw@citcom.net
Horseback Riding	Most trails in the Forest are open to horseback riding. Riding is permitted on trails with the horseback symbol at the trailhead, and prohibited where the horseback symbol is crossed out.	For equestrian information, email Gwen Hill at equestrian@dupontforest.com
Biking	Most trails in the Forest are open to mountain biking. Cycling is permitted on trails with the bicycle symbol at the trailhead, and prohibited where the bicycle symbol is crossed out.	For Mountain Bike information, email Woody Keen at mtb@dupontforest.com
Hunting	Registered as North Carolina Gamelands. Hunting by lottery only. Deer is typically Friday and Saturday in season; turkey is Thursday, Friday, and Saturday in season. No Sunday hunting.	N.C. Wildlife Resources Information about hunting and fishing in the Forest 919-707-0010
Fishing	<p>With North Carolina fishing license. Streams in the Forest are classified "Wild":</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily limit: 4 fish • Minimum size: 7 inches • Single hook with artificial lure only 	N.C. Wildlife Resources Information about hunting and fishing in the Forest- 919-707-0010
ATV's Prohibited	All motorized vehicular use is prohibited inside the Forest (except public roadways) by the N.C. Gamelands regulations. Signs have been posted. Wildlife wardens are presently arresting violators. The fine is \$90 for first offense, confiscation of vehicle for repeat offense.	
Camping	The property is presently not available for public camping. Special permits may be granted for special group events and volunteer activities.	Contact Forest Resources Management: 828-877-6527



The North Carolina Division of Forest Resources operates a system of seven Educational State Forests (ESFs) designed to teach the public - especially school children - about the forest environment.

Since the first ESF opened in Johnston County in 1976, the ESF program has become very popular - so popular that teachers must make reservations months in advance to bring their students to the forest for environmental education classes.

Each forest features self-guided trails that include exhibits, tree identification signs, a forest education center and a talking tree trail.

Specially trained rangers are available to conduct classes for school and other youth groups. Teachers or group leaders choose from a selection of 30-minute programs that cover all aspects of the forest environment - from soil, water and wildlife to timber and forest management.

Website- <http://www.ncsf.org/> (√14)

Holmes Educational State Forest

USGS Map: Standing Stone Mountain

1299 Crab Creek Road
 Hendersonville, N.C., 28739
 (828) 692-0100, e-mail: holmesESF.DFR@ncmail.net (√14)

To get to Holmes State Forest from downtown Hendersonville take US 25 south .5 mile till it meets with Caswell Street, turn right onto Caswell Street which will become Kanuga Road (SR 1127). Go approximately 10 miles and Holmes State Forest will be on the drivers left. From Penrose on US 64 take Featherstone Creek Road for 2.6 miles onto Little River . Turn left onto Crab Creek Road that will become Kanuga Road. The entrance to Holmes State Forest is 4.2 miles away on the driver's right. There will be signs on US 64 to help.

The Holmes Educational State Forest is named after the states first state forester, John S Holmes (1868-1958).

In the 1930's this 231 acre plot was used by the civilian conservation corps as a camp, and in 1972 it became a recognized state forest. The park has facilities for picnicking, hiking, nature study and primitive camping on the mountain top. The forest center and trail map board is located .1 mile from the parking lot. The forestry center informs hikers and picnickers of bathroom facilities and established picnic grounds. The Holmes Talking Tree Trail and Cliffside Demonstration Trail are also shown on the map board. The Cliffside Demonstration Trail (red blaze) is a 2.8 mile loop trail that circles the mountain to the campground at the top. A less difficult trail can be accessible by most handicapped is the Holmes Talking Tree Trail which had a green blaze. This .8 mile loop trail has audio devices that explain the function, value and historical use of the native trees in the area.

Website- www.ncesf.org/HESF/home.htm (√14)

Rendezvous Mountain

Is 147 acres of mountain forest in Wilkes County. It is located 1-1/2 miles off County 1348 near Purlear.

Rendezvous Mountain Educational State Forest

1956 Rendezvous Mtn. Rd.

Purlear, NC 28651

(336) 667-5072

e-mail: rendezvousmountainESF.DFR@ncmail.net(√14)

About the Forest

At Rendezvous Mountain Educational State Forest, visitors can listen to the wind in the trees; or they can listen to the trees tell a story. The Talking Tree Trail features "talking trees," each with a recorded message about itself, its site, and the forest history. Also, actual forestry practices are explained on the Forest Demonstration

Trail. Close to the start of the trail, a natural amphitheater is available for special sessions or groups.

Forest Features

- Outdoor Education Workshops
- Picnic Facilities
- Ranger-Conducted Classes
- Trails
 - Logging History Demonstration Trail
 - "Talking Tree" Trail
 - Forest Demonstration Trail

Website- <http://www.ncesf.org/RMESF> (√14)

Tuttle Educational State Forest

3420 Playmore Beach Road

Lenoir, NC 28655

(828) 757-5608

E-mail: tuttleESF.DFR@ncmail.net(√14)

Forest Features

- Outdoor Education Workshops
- Picnic Facilities
- Ranger-Conducted Classes
- "Talking Tree" Trail

Recreation at Tuttle Educational State Forest



Gazebo



Mountain view

Open picnic sites with tables and grills are available at the forest, as well as a spacious shelter complete with a massive stone fire place and plenty of seating. Reservations for the shelter are required.

Website- www.ncesf.org/TESF (√14)

Mountain Island Educational State Forest

1933 Mountain Island Highway

Mount Holly, NC 28120

(704) 827-7576

e-mail: mountainislandESF.DFR@ncmail.net (√14)

About Mountain Island ESF

Concentrating on Forestry Best Management Practices related to water quality, Mountain Island Educational State Forest is located on an important conservation easement. Mountain Island Lake, from which the forest takes its name, provides water for one out of every twelve residents of North Carolina.

Website- www.ncesf.org/MIESF (√14)

Jordan Lake Educational State Forest

2832 Big Woods Road

Chapel Hill, NC 27514

(919) 542-1154

E-mail JordanLakeESF.DFR@ncmail.net (√14)

About Jordan Lake ESF

Jordan Lake Educational State Forest is one of the newest members of North Carolina's Educational State Forest system.

At the Forest, visitors can listen to the wind in the trees or they can listen to the trees tell a story. The Forest is home to a wide variety of wildlife including birds of prey, deer, songbirds, flying squirrels and beavers.

Picnic facilities are available, including a shelter to accommodate large groups.

Forest Features

- Outdoor Education Workshops
- Picnic Facilities
- Ranger-Conducted Classes
- Trails:
 - Talking Tree Trail
 - Forest Demonstration Trail
 - Wetlands Trail
 - Wildlife Trail

Website- www.ncesf.org/JLESF (√14)

Clemmons Educational State Forest

2411 Old U.S. 70 West

Clayton, N.C. 27520

(919) 553-5651

Email: ClemmonsESF.DFR@ncmail.net (√14)

About Clemmons ESF

The first of North Carolina's Educational State Forests, Clemmons opened in 1976 in Johnston County. Featuring self-guided trails and exhibits, as well as Ranger-conducted classes, the forest offers a wealth of experiences for the senses and the mind.

Forest Features

- Outdoor Education Workshops
- Picnic Facilities
- Ranger-Conducted Classes
- Trails
 - Forest Geology Trail with "Talking Rocks"
 - "Talking Tree" Trail
 - Forest Demonstration Trail

Website- www.ncesf.org/CESF (√14)

Turnbull Creek Educational State Forest

4803 Sweet Home Church Rd.

Elizabethtown, NC 28337

(910) 588-4161

e-mail: turnbullcreekESF.DFR@ncmail.net (√14)

About the Forest

Turnbull Creek Educational State Forest is the only North Carolina ESF located in the coastal plain region of the state. The forest is intended for use by both organized groups and the general public. Three Educational Forest Rangers are on staff to present programs to any requesting group.

Forest Features

- Outdoor Education Workshops
- Picnic Facilities
- Ranger-Conducted Classes
- Naval Stores Exhibit
- Fire Control Exhibit
- Trails
 - "Talking Tree" Trail
 - Forest Demonstration Trail

Website- www.ncesf.org/TCESF (√14)

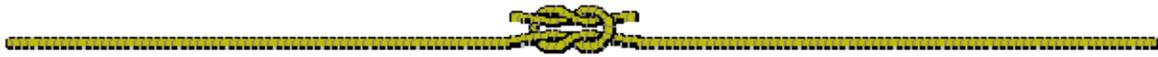
Western North Carolina Region

STATE PARKS

Crowder's Mountain State Park

Raptors soar gracefully in the wind; vegetation reaches to the sky; sheer vertical cliffs drop 150 feet. Enjoy the spectacle from a front-row seat. High atop Crowder's Mountain, the highest point in Gaston County, views stretch for more than 20 miles. For a closer view of nature's marvels, walk the park's many miles of trails. The gently rolling landscape of the North Carolina Piedmont offers a variety of terrain. Dip into the valleys; cross the foothills; climb to the peaks. Quiet woods, trickling streams and melodious birds await. These spectacular surroundings, like the unique habitats in many other state parks, would not exist were it not for the efforts of concerned citizens dedicated to protecting our environment from continued threats by man. Visit this mountain treasure. Around 5,000 acres.

522 Park Office Lane
Kings Mountain, NC 28086
(704) 853-5375



Gorges State Park

Plunging waterfalls, rugged river gorges, sheer rock walls and one of the greatest concentrations of rare and unique species in the eastern United States are found within Gorges State Park. An elevation that rises 2,000 feet in only four miles, combined with rainfall in excess of 80 inches per year, creates a temperate rain forest and supports a collection of waterfalls.

PO Box 100
Sapphire, N.C. 28774-0100
(828) 966-9099
Map: www.ncparks.gov/Visit/parks/gorg/pics/parkmap.pdf (v14)
Website: www.ncparks.gov/Visit/parks/gorg/main.php (v14)



Hanging Rock State Park

Not far from the cities of the Triad area, off the four-lane highways there's another North Carolina to be discovered—sheer cliffs and peaks of bare rock, quiet forests and cascading waterfalls, views of the piedmont plateau that stretch for miles. Hike the trails of Hanging Rock State Park and let nature put life's hectic pace in perspective. Rent a vacation cabin and fall asleep to the lullabies of spring peepers and chorus frogs. Join an interpretive program and discover something new about nature's bounty. Nestled in the hills is a cool mountain lake that beckons to swimmers and fishermen. Picnic areas and campgrounds lend themselves to time spent with family and friends. Hanging Rock State Park awaits you. Includes 6,921 acres in Stokes County.

P.O. Box 278,
Danbury, NC 27016
(336) 593-8480



Lake James State Park

Tucked away in rolling hills at the base of Linville Gorge is Lake James, a 6,510-acre lake with more than 150 miles of shoreline. This impressive waterway is the centerpiece of Lake James State Park. Here, nature offers scenic vistas of the Appalachian Mountains and beckons to those with an appetite for recreation. Bring family and friends to one of North Carolina's newest state parks for a variety of activities. Try swimming and sunbathing or enjoy a picnic along the lakeshore. Boat, water ski or fish in cool mountain waters, or take a walk and enjoy an abundance of wildflowers and wildlife along park trails. Lake James offers a variety of ways to enjoy the outdoors.

P.O. Box 340
Nebo, NC 28761
(828) 652-5047



Mount Jefferson State Natural Area

Mount Jefferson rises abruptly to more than 1,600 feet above the surrounding landscape, serving as a landmark for area motorists. Acquaint yourself with this mighty peak by viewing it first from the Mount Jefferson Overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Rising as a long, forested prominence, its dark color is conspicuous among neighboring peaks on the Ashe plateau. Though the mountain is magnificent from a distance, Mount Jefferson is best appreciated up close. On a clear day, you can see for miles from its peak. A great part of Ashe County spreads out below; fields, farms, forests and mountains mingle in kaleidoscopic patterns. On the horizon, the Blue Ridge Mountains form a striking backdrop. (490 acres)

PO Box 48
Jefferson, NC 28640
(336) 246-9653



Mount Mitchell State Park

In the crest of the timeworn Black Mountains lies the summit of Mount Mitchell, the highest point east of the Mississippi. For those who ascend this mighty peak, what looms in the horizon is a feast for the eyes—breathtaking views of the Blue Ridge Mountains, rolling ridges and fertile valleys. Forested and forever misty, 1,855-acre Mount Mitchell State Park will provide you with some of the most tranquil moments you'll ever experience.

2388 State Highway 128
Burnsville, NC 28714
(828) 675-4611



New River State Park

The New River area still maintains an old-fashioned charm. Mountain roads are narrow and winding, dotted with small farms, churches and country stores. The river itself is tranquil, offering good bass fishing, trout streams, excellent birding and inspiring mountain scenery. But perhaps the best way to absorb and appreciate the river's peacefulness is from the seat of a canoe as it glides across the slow-moving waters. Three areas with access to this waterway make up more than 1,500 acres of New River State Park and provide spots for camping, canoeing, picnicking and fishing.

PO Box 48
Jefferson, NC 28640
(336) 982-2587



Pilot Mountain State Park

Approach from any direction and see Pilot Mountain rising more than 1,400 feet above the rolling countryside of the upper Piedmont plateau. Dedicated as a National Natural Landmark in 1976, this solitary peak is the centerpiece of Pilot Mountain State Park. Fun, from relaxation to exhilaration, is easy to find here. Treat yourself to a horseback ride through the woods or challenge the river from raft or canoe. A five-mile woodland corridor joins two sections of the park, each section offering a wealth of opportunities for outdoor fun. The mountain segment, which includes the two pinnacles, contains most of the visitor facilities. The more primitive river section centers around the lazy, meandering Yadkin River. It consists of 3,703 acres in Surry and Yadkin County.

1792 Pilot Knob Park Road
Pinnacle, NC 27043
(336) 325-2355



South Mountains State Park

Nestled deep in the woods, South Mountains State Park is the perfect place to enjoy nature. Here you can see a majestic mountain range peeking out from the gently rolling landscape of the piedmont. The park includes elevations up to 3,000 feet, a waterfall dropping 80 feet and more than 40 miles of trails. From equestrian camping to trout fishing, mountain biking to picnicking, a number of activities are available at South Mountains State Park. It consists of 16,664 acres in Burke County.

3001 South Mountains State Park Ave.
Connelly Springs, NC 28612
(828) 433-4772



Stone Mountain State Park

Stone Mountain is not immediately visible upon entering the park that bears its name, but this magnificent 600-foot granite dome is well worth the wait. Sunlight and shadows dance across a broad tapestry of stone. White-tailed deer emerge from the security of the forest to graze on meadow grasses at the mountain's base. The scenery is only one attraction of the park. Test your fly-fishing techniques in more than 17 miles of designated trout waters. Or, with more than 16 miles of trails, take a hike in the park. Designated as a National Natural Landmark in 1975, Stone Mountain is bounded on the north by the Blue Ridge Parkway and on the west by the Thurmond Chatham Game Lands. More than 13,747 acres of mountain beauty offer opportunities for outdoor activities of all kinds.

3042 Frank Parkway
Roaring Gap, NC 28668
(336) 957-8185



Central North Carolina Region

STATE PARKS

Eno River State Park

Eno River begins in northwest Orange County, flowing eastward approximately 33 miles until, along with the Little and Flat rivers, it forms the Neuse and flows into Falls Lake. The Eno's waters roll through wilderness passing historic mill sites, river bluffs covered with flowering shrubs and fords used by early settlers. The river can run as swift as the wind and as gentle as a blowing breeze. But, upstream, rapids smash against rocks in the river's path. Further down, the Eno meanders quietly through serene surroundings. The valley of the river is narrow and steep-walled. The rolling landscape is carved and sculpted by swift-flowing water. Eno River State Park lies here, in the beauty of more than 2,600 acres of natural resources. Five access areas—Cabe Lands, Cole Mill, Few's Ford, Pleasant Green and Pump Station—offer entry into this largely unspoiled river environment.

6101 Cole Mill Road, Durham, NC 27705
(919) 383-1686



Falls Lake State Recreation Area

Hours of relaxation await you at Falls Lake State Recreation Area. Just moments away from the hustle and bustle of the city, Falls Lake is a great way to escape urban life. With a 12,000-acre lake and 26,000 acres of woodlands, Falls Lake State Recreation Area offers a choice of recreation areas—Beaverdam, B.W. Wells, Highway 50, Holly Point, Rolling View, Sandling Beach and Shinleaf. Fishing, boating and swimming are only a few of the activities awaiting you on the water. On land, you can enjoy walking, mountain biking or camping along a portion of the state's Mountains-to-Sea Trail. From recreation to environmental education, no matter what you are looking for, you are sure to discover it at Falls Lake.

13304 Creedmoor Road, Wake Forest, NC 27587
(919) 676-1027



Jordan Lake State Recreation Area

Imagine relaxing in a cove, listening to the sounds of water rippling. Then, you feel a firm tug on your fishing line. It's going to be a big one! Picture the surface of the lake glistening, water spraying your face, the boat motor ahead roaring. Suddenly, your skis give way — a splash landing! Hear the laughter of children, smell charcoal drifting through the air, feel a breeze blowing through the campground. With almost 14,000 acres of water, all this and more is yours to discover at Jordan Lake. The NC Division of Parks and Recreation operates eight recreation areas on the lake — Crosswinds Campground, Ebenezer Church, Parkers Creek, Poplar Point, Seaforth, Vista Point, Robeson Creek and New Hope Overlook. Whether you're looking for fun in the sun or an evening under the stars, Jordan Lake offers it all.

280 State Park Road,
Apex, NC 27523
(919) 362-0586



Kerr Lake State Recreation Area

Set a course for Kerr Lake State Recreation Area to enjoy sailing, fishing, water skiing and camping. This 50,000-acre, man-made lake is a haven for water sports enthusiasts and landlubbers alike. The lake is situated in the northeast corner of the Piedmont region and covers both Virginia and North Carolina. The recreation area's headquarters are located north of Henderson at Satterwhite Point. More than 800 miles of wooded shoreline provide access to a variety of fun-filled activities on the lake. Relax and enjoy water sports at any of the seven recreation areas operated by the NC Division of Parks and Recreation along this expansive reservoir.

Address: 269 Glass House Road
Henderson, NC 27356
(252) 438- 7791



Lake Norman State Park

At Lake Norman State Park, fun is just a matter of scale. On one hand, there's the largest manmade lake in the state, Lake Norman. When filled to capacity, its surface area is 32,510 acres with a shoreline of 520 miles and a main channel 34 miles in length — thus its nickname, the "Inland Sea." Thirteen miles of the shoreline are in the state park, which provides boating access. On another hand, the park boasts its own 33-acre lake where fishing and boating are enjoyed. And with hiking trails, picnic areas, interpretive programs and campgrounds, there's more to Lake Norman State Park than merely water. It was formerly known as “Duke Power State Park.”

159 Inland Sea Lane
Troutman, NC 28166
(704) 528-6350



Medoc Mountain State Park

At Medoc Mountain, the urban refugee finds a welcome tranquility, a chance to embrace the outdoors. Trails beckon as light filters through branches overhead and falls on paths that hold the promise of new frontiers. The peacefulness gives the opportunity to refresh. The silence of the forest is broken only by bird songs and the occasional drumming of the pileated woodpecker. Grab your hiking boots. Load your camera. Spend some time at Medoc Mountain State Park and let nature renew your spirit. Located in Halifax County, this park consists of 2,300 acres of rolling topography.

1541 Medoc State Park Road
Hollister, NC 27844
(252) 586-6588



Morrow Mountain State Park

Recreation is plentiful in and around the waters of Lake Tillery and the Pee Dee River. Fishing, boating and swimming are popular pastimes. Nature lovers can pick from miles of trails to travel on foot or horseback. And for those who want to stay and take it all in, cabins and camping are available. There's really only one word to describe Morrow Mountain State Park: variety. Use the family car or RV, horseback or canoe, put on a pair of hiking boots or dip bare feet in the river, or bait your favorite fishing pole—a visit to Morrow Mountain lets you choose your kind of adventure. Located in Stanley County, the park covers 4,742 acres.

49104 Morrow Mountain Road
Albemarle, NC 28001
(704) 982-4402



Raven Rock State Park

The first feeling you are likely to experience at Raven Rock is one of renewal. Here, the forest reigns as each year the timeless cycle of growth further heals age-old wounds inflicted by man. Nature triumphs as plants compete in the stages of forest succession and the woodlands are restored. High above the Cape Fear River stands Raven Rock, its austere beauty a testament to the forces that have shaped the land. As the river below rushes to join the sea, nature's elements continue to shape the surface of this natural monument. It consists of 4,667 acres of Hamett County. Rolling terrain, extensive forest, unique plant life, and exposed rocks are eye-catching features.

3009 Raven Rock Road
Lillington, NC 27546
(910) 893-4888



Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve

The Sandhills region consists of nearly one million acres in south-central North Carolina. In the midst of this sandy terrain—famous for golf courses, peach orchards and horse farms—is Weymouth Woods, an 898-acre natural preserve. A natural preserve, Weymouth Woods is different from traditional parks. This protected area serves to preserve and portray the natural features unique to its region. Weymouth Woods is a place where you can look at the longleaf pine forest and see how human actions have affected the environment, where you can learn about rare and endangered species—the red-cockaded woodpecker, the pine barrens tree frog and the bog spicebush. Walk the sandy paths of Weymouth Woods. Look to the canopy of its stately trees. Listen to the sounds of its woodlands. The fox squirrel, the longleaf pine and the role of fire are just a few of the subjects nature teaches in this fascinating ecosystem.

1024 Fort Bragg Road
Southern Pines, NC 28387
(910) 692-2167



William B. Umstead State Park

Tucked between the growing cities of Raleigh, Cary, Durham and the corporate world of Research Triangle Park is an oasis of tranquility, a peaceful haven—William B. Umstead State Park. Here, two worlds merge as the sounds of civilization give way to the unhurried rhythm of nature. Highways fade in the distance as trees, flowers, birds and streams form a more natural community. William B. Umstead is a place to escape the pressures of everyday life, a place to picnic in the pines, to wait for a fish to bite, to take a hike or horseback ride on trails through the woods. Divided into two sections, Crabtree Creek and Reedy Creek, this 5,577-acre park is easily accessible from Interstate 40 and US 70. Visit William B. Umstead State Park and enjoy this region of wilderness at the city's doorstep.

8801 Glenwood Ave.
Raleigh, NC 27612
(919) 571-4170

Eastern North Carolina STATE PARKS

Carolina Beach State Park

With a marina providing access to some of North Carolina's best fishing spots, a secluded camping area beneath towering trees, and miles of hiking trails that traverse a variety of distinct habitats—not to mention the presence of the Venus flytrap, one of the world's most unique carnivorous plants—it's no wonder Carolina Beach State Park is a popular coastal attraction. 761 acres, New Hanover County. Near Carolina Beach, there are 83 tent/trailer campsites. Picnicking, fishing, hiking, nature study, small marina, and boating are all offered.

PO Box 475
Carolina Beach, NC 28428
(910) 458-8206



Cliffs of the Neuse State Park

At the turn of the century visitors flocked to the area. They drank mineral water from local springs to cure their ills and they took riverboat excursions to the cliffs. Things have changed since then. Mineral water now comes in bottles and isn't likely to cure anything at all, and riverboats have given way to more modern modes of transportation. The cliffs, however, remain virtually unaltered, standing as a journal of the geological and biological history of the land. See this spectacular formation, now protected within the boundaries of Cliffs of the Neuse State Park.. Consists of 751 acres in Wayne County. There are 35 tent/trailer campsites. Picnicking, refreshment stand, fishing, hiking, swimming, rental row boats, nature study, museum, and a dump station are all provided at the site.

345-A Park Entrance Road
Seven Springs, NC 28578
Phone: (919) 778-6234



Fort Fisher State Recreation Area

Enjoy a leisurely day at the ocean shore. Comb the beach for sea stars, keyhole urchins and whelk shells. Or, simply lie back on the sand and enjoy the aerial acrobatics of seagulls, terns and brown pelicans as they soar above the waves. You may want to venture into the mud flats and marshes to watch sandpipers and other shorebirds as they search for food. Learn about endangered species. Loggerhead sea turtles, piping plovers and other rare species nest along this sandy shore. Explore the North Carolina coast; visit Fort Fisher State Recreation Area. This stretch of pristine shoreline offers many enjoyable activities. Located on the southern tip of Pleasure Island near Wilmington, Fort Fisher lies between the Atlantic Ocean on the east and the Cape Fear River on the west. Here are miles of white, sandy beach for sunning, swimming and fishing. The salt marsh, tidal creeks and mud flats form a natural outdoor laboratory exhibiting the wonders of a coastal environment.

PO Box 243
Kure Beach, NC 28449
(910) 458-5798



Fort Macon State Park

Fort Macon offers public access to the surf, sun and sand of the Crystal Coast—as well as a historic landmark. Located at the eastern end of Bogue Banks, one of a series of barrier islands along the North Carolina coast, the park is surrounded on three sides by water—the Atlantic Ocean, Beaufort Inlet and Bogue Sound. This area of

undisturbed natural beauty is the perfect place to explore salt marches and estuaries vital to the coastal ecosystem. The park is also home to a Civil War fort with a history as intricate and unique as the waterways of the sound. Visit Fort Macon to enjoy the land's natural beauty and soak up some history.

P.O. Box 127
Atlantic Beach, NC 28512
(252) 726-3775



Goose Creek State Park

Giant, old oaks draped in Spanish moss welcome you to this special world where broad, lazy Goose Creek joins the Pamlico River. A primitive camping area, picnic sites, swim beach and hiking and canoeing trails offer a variety of ways to savor the tranquil surroundings at Goose Creek State Park. And historic Bath, North Carolina's oldest incorporated town, is just six miles away. The area consists of 1,208 acres of diverse topography and vegetation. The river section has natural sand beaches, and combined creek section that offers fishing, bird watching, and water recreational activities. Goose Creek may be reached from US 17, US 264, and NC 92. Southeast of Washington, NC.

2190 Camp Leach Rd
Washington, NC 27889
(919) 923-2191



Hammocks Beach State Park

Venture to Bear Island and reward yourself with vivid memories of one of the most unspoiled beaches on the Atlantic coast. Accessible only by passenger ferry or private boat, there's just one thing at Hammocks Beach that's crowded—the list of things to do. Stroll the beach with laughing gulls and sandpipers. Cast a baited hook into endless rows of foaming breakers. Discover tiny specimens of marine life in tidal pools and mudflats. Use a camera or paintbrush to capture the green and gold grasses that color the salt marshes. Spend the night among the sand dunes, or simply bask in the sun and do nothing at all. Secluded and tranquil, free from intruding commercialism, Hammocks Beach may not be for everyone, but the island is a retreat for people who welcome the challenges of relentless sun, sand, sea and sky.

1572 Hammocks Beach Road
Swansboro, NC 28584
(910) 326-4881



Jockey's Ridge State Park

There are many reasons why millions of people visit Jockey's Ridge State Park. Some come to see the tallest sand dune on the Atlantic coast; others come for the spectacular sunsets. At Jockey's Ridge State Park you can experience the world of the desert. Shifting sands, high winds, extreme temperatures and a lack of water make the park resemble barren environments such as the Sahara Desert. You also can explore the wonders of an estuarine environment. The tidal waters of the Roanoke Sound, the western boundary of the park, is a rich habitat for a variety of plant and animal life, making these waters the source of much of the sea's bounty. Whatever the reason for a visit to Jockey's Ridge, a trip to this unique park will give you even more reasons to come back again and again. 420 acres.

PO Box 592
Nags Head, NC 27959
(252) 441-7132



Jones Lake State Park

Venture to Jones Lake State Park and view one of the greatest geological mysteries of the eastern United States—the phenomenon of the Carolina bays. Adjacent to the Bladen Lakes State Forest and home of two natural lakes, Jones and Salters lakes, the 2,208-acre park is a nature lover's delight. Peaceful surroundings and a variety of facilities, including a trail with several outlooks that circles Jones Lake, make this state park a favorite for hiking, picnicking, swimming, fishing and camping.

4117 NC 242 Hwy. N.,
Elizabethtown, NC 28337
(910) 588-4550



Lake Waccamaw State Park

The cool, tea-colored waters at first appear similar to other lakes in the area, but Lake Waccamaw is one of the most unique bodies of water in the world. You will find here species of animals found nowhere else on the planet, rare plants and endangered animals. At Lake Waccamaw, you can view one of the greatest geological mysteries of the eastern United States—the phenomenon of Carolina bays. Limestone bluffs along the north shore neutralize Lake Waccamaw's water, making the lake different from any other Carolina Bay. Nearby, you can catch a glimpse of a botanical wonder—the Green Swamp. From its sandy shorelines to its tree-lined natural areas, Lake Waccamaw offers peaceful surroundings, an intriguing natural history and fun in the sun.

1866 State Park Drive Lake
Waccamaw, NC 28450
(910) 646-4748



Lumber River State Park

The Lumber River flows through the south-central portion of our state. And, the river's headwaters are in Montgomery, Moore and Scotland counties where the waterway is known as Drowning Creek. The creek becomes a river at SR 1412/1203 along the Scotland-Hoke county line, and its waters flow into South Carolina, eventually joining the Little Pee Dee River. Lumber River State Park contains 7,936 acres of land and 115 miles of state natural and scenic waters, 81 miles of which are also designated national wild and scenic waters. The park's recreation activities are currently centered at the Princess Ann Access, which includes a reverse flow area named Griffin's Whirl. At the access, a bend in the river opens to a long, straight vista that beckons paddlers to take a ride.

2819 Princess Ann Road
Orrum, NC 28369
(910) 628-9844



Merchants Millpond State Park

An "enchanted forest," primitive species of fish relatively unchanged over millions of years, towering bald cypress trees with massive trunks, luxuriant growths of Spanish moss—this is Merchants Millpond State Park. Here, coastal pond and southern swamp forest mingle, creating one of North Carolina's rarest ecological communities. Together with upland forests, these environments create a haven for wildlife and humanity alike. Merchants Mill Pond is one of our state's rarest ecological communities, situated on 3,250 acres of lakes, wetland, and hiking trails.

71 US Hwy 158E,
Gatesville, NC 27938
(252) 357-1191



Pettigrew State Park

With more than 1,200 acres of land and 16,600 acres of water, Pettigrew State Park is an ideal blend of nature, history and recreation. Explore Lake Phelps and examine dugout canoes as ancient as the pyramids. Or cast your line into crystal-clear waters where largemouth bass reign. Take a trip back in time at the grave of a great Confederate general. Or hug a tree as wide as an elephant. Pettigrew exhibits its history among picturesque natural surroundings. Majestic cypress trees tower above as the branches of tulip poplar and swamp chestnut oak provide perches for songbirds. Wildflowers decorate the landscape with a splash of color.

2252 Lake Shore Road
Creswell, NC 27928
(252) 797-4475



Singletary Lake State Park

Bring your group to Singletary Lake State Park and enjoy group camping in a land of mysterious origins. A portion of the unique Carolina bay ecosystem found nowhere else in the world, Singletary Lake lies within the 35,975-acre Bladen Lakes State Forest. Developed primarily for organized group camping, the park is comprised of 649 acres of land and a 572-acre natural lake. In addition to group camping, Singletary Lake State Park offers ample opportunities for nature study and recreation.

6707 NC 53 Hwy. East
Kelly, NC 28448
(910) 669-2928



HIKING IN NORTH CAROLINA

The North Carolina mountains provide a wide selection of trails for both the inexperienced and advanced hikers. The national forests in North Carolina provide over 1,200 miles of primary foot trails; including seven National Recreation Trails and over 200 miles of the Appalachian Trail. Camping is permitted along all trails, but may be limited or require permits.

We are fortunate in Daniel Boone Council to have both Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests nearby. Some of the numerous trails in those forests can be found in sections III and IV.



Shortoff Mountain, Linville Gorge

Contents

- 1- Index**
- 2- Appalachian Trail**
 - Catawba Falls**
 - Cheoah Bald**
- 3- Grandfather Mountain**
 - Foothills Trail**
 - Linville Gorge**
- 4- Mountains to Sea Trail**
- 9- Roan Mountain**
 - Shortoff Mountain**

Appalachian Trail National Scenic Trail

The Appalachian Trail covers over 2100 miles from Maine to Georgia. 302 of those miles wind through North Carolina and parts of Tennessee. Since its creation, many hikers take the challenge each year to journey the rugged hills in the Appalachian Mountains. The Appalachian Trail has shelters at various locations for the convenience of campers. During the late spring, summer and early fall these shelters are usual crowded; they are available on a first come, first served basis. Hikers are encouraged to consider using the numerous other trails provided on the Pisgah and Nantahala Forests. The AT provides 500 access points. To camp overnight, permits are necessary in the Shenandoah National Park and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. For the advanced hiker, the AT provides trails from Georgia to Maine (2,158mi).

We cannot cover all of the trails in North Carolina, however, it is recommended that adventurers read the books entitled “AT Guide to Tennessee-North Carolina” and “AT Guide to North Carolina – Georgia” at your local bookstore or outfitter.

Appalachian Trail Conservancy
P.O. Box 807
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425-0807
(304) 535-6331

<http://www.appalachiantrail.org> (√14)

Catawba Falls (privately owned)

(2,400ft) USGS Map: Marion

The Catawba Falls trip is popular family trip with impressive waterfalls on the headwaters of the Catawba River. At railroad station on US 70 is Old Fort, turn south onto Catawba Street, after 5 miles cross under I-40, immediately turn right onto exit ramp and go a half-mile. Turn onto SR 1274 on left, go 3 miles to bridge to end of road, park, cross bridge. Walk up stream, passing abandoned powerhouse and dam. Following is an easy decent. When the road runs out after 35minutes and becomes a streambed, walk on left bank 15 paces then right bank for 55 paces. Next go sharply left across stream, continuing for 175 paces to base of lower Catawba Falls, graceful, cascading type. Note: the turn made at stream is easy to go wrong on return. Upper falls plunges into a large pool which can be reached by hiking 30 minutes on a steep, slippery trail climbing beside lower falls. Easy 3.5 mile hike on private property.

800-807-5263

<http://www.catawbafallspreserve.com/> (√14)

Cheoah Bald

(5,062ft) from Stecoah Gap on the AT. Leave NC 28 from gap just west of Stecoah; go to Sweetwater Road (SR 143) for 2 miles southwest to Stecoah Gap where the AT crosses. Park, then follow the white blazes: climb southeast very steeply on AT to crest water 200 yards right. Continue to the summit of Cheoah Bald at 4.3 miles. The trail provides a strenuous 8.6 mile hike and primitive camping.

Grandfather Mountain (privately owned)

(5,964 if) Is located in Linville area and has a mile-high swinging bridge which connects 2 of the peaks. Grandfather is the highest mountain on the Blue Ridge Range and a spectacular Alpine-like ridge-top hike is found there. The highest peaks can be reached only by trail man undeveloped 5,000 acre area. 7 trails have been designated by the US Department of the Interior on the 2 mountains. Located within 10 miles of 6 ski resorts, Grandfather is one of the snowiest spots in North Carolina and a popular winter backpacking and hiking site. From the east, the Daniel Boone Scout Trail reaches Calloway Peak, the mountain's highest point in 3 miles. The Boone Trail begins on the West side of US 221, 10.8 miles north of the US 221 and Highway 105 junction in Linville and 1.5 miles south of the Blue Ridge Parkway and Halloway Mountain Road junction with US 221. Other trails on the mountain reach Indian House Cave, one of the East's highest archeological sites, and Black Rock Cliffs Cave, a 6 room cavern. There are 3 trails on Grandfather Mountain form a national recreation trail day or multi-night backpacking circuit over Calloway Peak. Camping is permitted at many backcountry campsites where some shelters are provided. Hiking permits are required and a fee is charged to support trail maintenance and monitoring system for safety. Permits are available at the Grandfather Mountain Entrance. For more information contact:
Backcountry Manager

Grandfather Mountain

P.O. Box 129

Linville, NC 28646

(828) 733-2013

<http://www.grandfather.com/> (√14)

Foothills Trail

The Foothills Trail in South Carolina connects Table Rock State Park and Oconee State Park with 74.8 miles of trail. It crosses into North Carolina and passes by the Horse Pasture River and the Towaway River. The trail makes use of old wagon and logging roads where possible. Careful planning of both food and equipment is suggested as there aren't any convenient mid-trip re-supply points after you leave Table Rock State Park in the first 30 mile segment.

Foothills Trail Conference

P.O. Box 3041

Greenville, SC 29602

<http://www.foothillstrail.org/> (√14)

Linville Gorge

(2,600ft) Linville Gorge is one of Eastern America's most scenic and rugged gorges. It is also reputed to be the wildest and most treacherous area in the Blue Ridge Parkway, but the risks on graded trails described here are no greater than elsewhere in the wilds of the Southern Appalachians. The area has been set aside as a wilderness by the US Forest Service. Babel Tower Trails begin at the sign on the east side of old NC 105, 2.8 miles south from NC 183. None of these are circle trips, however, all the trails can be followed back to their starting points at 1 to 2.9 miles each. The Babel Tower Trail and Conley Cove Trail makes a hike of 8 miles. Before starting in the gorge, it is desirable to drive to Wisemen's View recreation site on old NC 105, 1.5 miles south of start of Babel Tower Trail. Here, the gorge can be scanned from overlooks that orient the hiker. The trail offers art 8 mile moderate hike.

828-652-4841

<http://www.northcarolinaoutdoors.com/places/mountains/linvillegorge.html> (√14)

The Mountains to Sea Trail

The Mountains to Sea Trail (Mountains to Sea Trail) of North Carolina is a 900+ mile trail consisting of footpaths, roads, and state bike routes. This trail started in 1973 when the North Carolina General Assembly passed the North Carolina Trails System Act.



North Carolina's Mountains to Sea Trail (MST) stretches from Clingman's Dome in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park to Jockey's Ridge State Park by the Atlantic Ocean. The mainline distance is 908 miles and if an alternate section is followed it is 925 miles. With Ferry Rides, spur trails to scenic overlooks, and side trails to campsites, the adventurous journey is nearly 1000 miles. It's western terminus at Clingman's Dome is 6643 feet in elevation. Its eastern terminus, after reaching sea level, is in Jockey's Ridge State Park's on the highest sand dune (140 feet elevation) of the nation's East Coast.

As of June of 2005, The Blue Ridge Parkway sections of the Mountains to Sea Trail are now officially recognized as a **National Recreation Trail (NRT)**.

This guide includes most completed trail sections in the mountains, from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park to Hanging Rock State Park. Complete & up-to-date information can be found at <http://www.ncmst.org/> (v14)



Section 1 (27.2 miles)

Clingmans Dome on the Appalachian Trail (north) in Great Smoky Mountains National Park 3.5 miles to junction right with spur trail for connection to Fork Ridge Trail to Ocanaluftee River and western terminus of Blue Ridge Parkway milepost 469.1 (Swain County)

This is an excellent weekend hiking trip! The Mountains to Sea Trail signs are very easy to follow in the Smokys. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park has the Mountains to Sea Trail highlighted in purple on their trail map.

**Section 4
(24.2 miles)** Balsam Gap (South), Blue Ridge Parkway milepost 443.1 (US-23/74) to Bear Pen Gap (Wet Pen Gap, USFS) Blue Ridge Parkway milepost 427.6 (Jackson County) The Mountains to Sea Trail ascends into the Nantahala National Forest and at times follows old forest roads.

**Section 5
(8.5 miles)** Bear Pen Gap (Wet Camp Gap) Blue Ridge Parkway milepost 427.6 to Beech Gap (NC-215) Blue Ridge Parkway milepost 423.2 (Jackson and Haywood Counties)
A very scenic section of the Mountains to Sea Trail and remains at an elevation of 1 mile above sea level for the entire 8.5 miles. This section is an excellent day hike! Since this area is a wilderness area, no white blazes are allowed in this area.

**Section 6
(21.4 miles)** (21.2 miles main white-blazed route) (37.7 mi alternate blue-blazed route) Beech Gap (NC-215) Blue Ridge Parkway milepost 423.2 to Pisgah Inn at Blue Ridge Parkway milepost 408.6 (Haywood and Transylvania Counties)

After junctioning with the Art Loeb trail the Mountains to Sea Trail enters Graveyard Fields and Looking Glass Falls.

The Mountains to Sea Trail and the alternate Art Loeb trail make for a nice 3-4 day loop backpacking trip.

**Section 7
(32.0 miles)** Pisgah Inn, Blue Ridge Parkway milepost 408.6 to Folk Art Center Blue Ridge Parkway milepost 382 (Transylvania, Henderson, and Buncombe Counties)

The MOUNTAINS TO SEA TRAIL follows the Shut-In trail down into the North Carolina Arboretum. After crossing the French Broad river the Mountains to Sea Trail parallels the Blue Ridge Parkway through Asheville and to the Folk Art Center.

**Section 8
(22.0 miles)** Folk Art Center- Blue Ridge Parkway milepost 382 to Balsam Gap (North) at Blue Ridge Parkway milepost 359.8 (Buncombe County)

The Mountains to Sea Trail ascends up to Rattlesnake Lodge and then into Craggy Gardens before reaching Balsam Gap. This section could be called the "roller coaster", for its elevation change.

**Section 9
(14.5 miles)** Balsam Gap (North) at Blue Ridge Parkway milepost 359.8 to Black Mountain Recreation Area by South Toe River (Yancey County). This section includes Mt. Mitchell State Park for a great view of the Black Mountains.

Section 10 Black Mountain Recreation Area by South Toe River in Pisgah NF to Buck Gap at Blue Ridge Parkway milepost 344.1 (NC-80) (Yancey County)
(7.7 miles)

The Mountains to Sea Trail continues to parallel the Blue Ridge Parkway and offers scenic views; an excellent day hike adventure.

Section 11 **From Buck Gap at Blue Ridge Parkway milepost 344.1 (NC-80) to Woodlawn Park (US-221)** (McDowell County)
(13.2 miles)

The Mountains to Sea Trail leaves the Blue Ridge Parkway here and doesn't return to it until Grandfather Mountain. Parts of this section follow old US Forest Service Roads to Hwy 221.

Section 12 **Woodlawn Park at Hwy 221 to NC-181.** This section would make a good 3-4 day backpacking trip, and a very strenuous one at that (34.0 miles). This section of the Mountains to Sea Trail is the most remote and scenic through the Linville Gorge. You will need to cross the North Fork of the Catawba and the Linville River (no bridges), which can be dangerous during high water. Climbing up Bald Knob with 37 switchbacks with views of Shortoff Mountain and Table Rock is a challenge with a full backpack. You will then descend down into the Linville Gorge, cross the river and ascend sharply for about 2 miles to the top of Shortoff Mountain. Campsites are available on the top of Shortoff (there is a seasonal spring there). The Mountains to Sea Trail will then take you to Table Rock parking area at mile 23.0 and descend down into Steels Creek area for scenic waterfalls. Parking is available at NC-181. Topo maps are a must for this area along with Allen de Harts guidebook descriptions. As long as you are in US Forest property you may camp where you like.

Section 13 **Ripshin Ridge (NC-181) to Beacon Heights** Blue Ridge Parkway 305.3 (Burke and Avery Counties) (Complete) (Designated by DPR) The Mountains to Sea Trail passes the highest waterfalls of its entire route.
(24.2 miles)

If pools of water and scenic waterfalls are what you want then this is the place to get what you want on this section of the Mountains to Sea Trail.

Section 14 **Beacon Heights to Blowing Rock at HW-321.** The Mountains to Sea Trail follows the exceptionally scenic Tanawha, Boone Fork and Rich Mountain trails through this area for 25.0 miles. This area is extremely scenic in the fall with Grandfather Mountain in the background. The only campground is J. Price Park along the Mountains to Sea Trail for \$14.00 per night at mile 13.5. The Cone Manner is a historic place you may want to stop before reaching Blowing Rock at HW-321. Going unde the Lynn Cove viaduct and sights of Grandfather Mountain make this area a great hike in the fall. Mountains to Sea Trail white blazes will soon be painted along this section.
(25 miles)

Section 15 Blowing Rock (US-321) near Blue Ridge Parkway milepost 291.9 to Deep Gap (US-421) Blue Ridge Parkway milepost 276.4 (Watauga County) (Incomplete, must hike Blue Ridge Parkway shoulder)
(15.5 miles)

Section 16 Deep Gap (US-421) Blue Ridge Parkway milepost 276.4 to Horse Gap (NC-16) (Watauga, Wilkes, and Ashe Counties) **Incomplete as of January 2006**
(15.2 miles)

Section 17 **Horse Gap (NC-16) Blue Ridge Parkway milepost 261.2 to Devils Garden**
(25.5 miles) **Overlook Blue Ridge Parkway milepost 235.7** - The Mountains to Sea Trail follows the Bluff Mountain Trail through Doughton Park where you can camp. The Mountains to Sea Trail has been completed from Hwy 18 to Devils Garden overlook as a natural surface trail. On clear days you can see all the way to Mt. Rodgers in Virginia. This section is 14 miles long and you could extend your trip into Stone Mountain State Park after leaving Devils Garden overlook.

Section 18 **Devils Garden Overlook Blue Ridge Parkway milepost 235.7 through Stone**
(9.5 miles) **Mountain State Park to its headquarters parking area.** (Wilkes County) Follows some named trails, but other trails are to be selected by Stone Mountain State Park. Some of the Mountains to Sea Trail follows old Forest Service Roads. For a routing update please call Stone Mt. State Park and speak with Ed Farr at (336) 957-8185.

Sections 19 & 20 Largely follow roads- refer to <http://www.ncmst.org/> (√14)

Section 21 From Surry County boundary through Stokes County. (This section includes 7 miles of trails in Hanging Rock State Park.) The Sauratown Trail that connects Pilot Mountain to Hanging Rock has been designated by DRP. The Sauratown Trail is a horse and hiking trail. Major road crossings are NC-66, NC-8/89, and US-311; towns are Danbury and Walnut Cove. Leave bike route #4 in Danbury and follow NC-89 to Walnut Cove, but NC-55 into Forsyth County.
(35.7 miles)

The Sauratown Trail offers 22 miles of hiking or horse back riding on the Mountains to Sea Trail to Troy's Den at Hanging Rock State Park.

Sauratown Trail - A Segment of the Mountains to Sea Trail

The Sauratown Trail (ST) is a unique 21.70 mile trail that begins at the Tories Den parking area of Hanging Rock State Park and runs in a general WSW direction to the Surry County Line parking area of Pilot Mt. State Park. The Sauratown Trail was built, and is maintained, by the volunteer efforts of the Sauratown Trails Association (<http://www.sauratowntrails.org/>)(√14), an equestrian group. They also maintain: three loop trails which branch off of the Sauratown Trail, a trail center, and three parking areas spaced at intervals along the trail. The two parking areas that anchor each end of the Sauratown Trail are maintained by the N.C. Park service. The total STA trail system exceeds 35 miles, and is connected to dozens of miles of park trails at each end. One can now hike from the Dan River to the Yadkin River, a distance of nearly forty miles. For directions to parking areas, and links to the two state parks (with download-able maps), or to purchase the official Sauratown Trail map, visit the STA website (www.sauratowntrails.org) (√14). The Sauratown Trail is well designed, with many switchbacks, so that even the steeper sections are not too strenuous, even for casual hikers. Numerous combinations of short hikes are available, so that one can make as much or as little of an outing as desired.

More of the Mountains to Sea trail

For the Piedmont and Coastal trail descriptions, visit <http://www.ncmst.org/> (√14)

Books:

Hiking North Carolina's Mountains-to-Sea Trail by Allen de Hart 384 pp., 61/8 x 91/4, 28 illus., 79 maps, appends., index \$18.95 paper, IBN 0-8078-4887-5 (available at outfitters statewide)

Order straight from the UNC website at : <http://uncpress.unc.edu/books/T-5156.html> (√14)

The Mountains to Sea Trail: Western North Carolina's Majestic Rival to the Appalachian Trail
Authors Donald E. Dossey and John I. Hillyer

Trail Profiles - The Mountains to Sea Trail, From Beech Gap to Black Mountain Campground
Author Walt Weber for the Carolina Mountain Club

Orders for this book can be placed with the Carolina Mountain Club on their website at:

www.carolinamtclub.com(√14)

Nantahala National Forest

See Section IV-A

Pisgah National Forest

See Section III

Roan Mountain National Recreation Trail

(6,286ft) Offers a loop trail that winds through Roan Mountain Gardens. A natural garden of rhododendron, fir trees, and grass openings are included. The peak of the bloom is in mid-June. Portions of the trail are paved with a viewing deck for the handicapped. Facilities include water, comfort station, picnic areas, and information stations are provided. Nearby, Cloudland Trail goes to an observation deck. Take NC 261 to Carver's Gap, turn left and follow the road to the summit and parking area.

http://www.etsu.edu/writing/teaching&theory_s06/roan.htm (√14)

Shortoff Mountain

(3,000 ft) Is a highly recommended trip. A moderate walk to the lower end of Linville Gorge (Trail 90) along a series of cliffs offering unsurpassed views into the gorge with Lake James as a backdrop in the distance. Exit from I-40 at Nebo-Lake James exit, east of Marion. Go north 2.8 miles; turn west, left for 0.3 miles; next, turn north, right onto NC 126, which leads around Lake James. After 10 miles, cross the Linville River; go 1.2 miles farther; turn onto the first road on Wolf Pit Road (Forest Road 117). Take the road 2.4 miles to turnaround at dead end to park. Walk 12 minutes more, reach another junction, go either right or left. In 13 minutes reach the 3rd junction; take the woodland footpath straight ahead west between two small gashed pine trees, avoiding the main road which climbs steeply right to the side road to the left which goes steeply downhill (pay special attention to stay on the right road). In 7 minutes you will arrive at the first observation point on the cliffs. Walk north as far as desired along the edge of the cliffs on the tiny trail through rhododendron, laurel, and sand myrtle. A moderate roundtrip of 5-8 miles is provided.

National Parks and Seashores



Blue Ridge Parkway

Contents

A1- Index

A- Blue Ridge Parkway

2- Camping

3- Hiking

B- Great Smokey Mountains National Park

C- Hatteras National Sea Shore

Blue Ridge Parkway

www.blueridgeparkway.org (√14)

www.nps.gov/blri (√14)

The Blue Ridge Parkway, America's most popular scenic parkway, is a unique mountain top drive designed solely for vacation travel. It is built on an average elevation of over 3,000 feet, no commercial vehicles are allowed. The parkway is 469 miles in length spanning the mountains between the Shenandoah National Park in Virginia and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Approximately 250 miles of the parkway are in North Carolina. Numerous mountain resorts and attractions are located within easy access of the parkway. More than 100 scenic overlooks are offered. Cross-country skiing is very popular during the winter months in designated areas of the parkway.

Near Spruce Pine is the Museum of North Carolina Minerals, which contains most of 300 kinds of minerals and gemstones found in North Carolina.

Spectacular views are Devil's Courthouse, an unusual rock formation near Beech Gap; Waterrock Knob Overlook near Cherokee and Heintooga Overlook near Maggie Valley. The Richland overlook at 6,053 feet is the highest point on the parkway. For information contact the Superintendent, Blue Ridge Parkway, 700 Northwestern Bank Building, Asheville, NC 28801; Phone: (828) 259-0079.

Parkway Camping

Camping is permitted along the North Carolina portion of the parkway at 5 designated areas. All campgrounds and picnic areas have facilities and sites for the handicapped. All of the parkway campgrounds have flush toilets, interpretative programs, and dump stations. Some parkway campgrounds are open all year, weather permitting.

Crabtree Meadows

Located at milepost 339.5, at an elevation of 3,600ft. 250 acres. Hiking, picnic area, camping, comfort station, drinking water. 40 minute walk to Crabtree Falls

Doughton Park

Located at milepost 238.5. 1,000 acres, picnic area, comfort stations, drinking water, visitor information, public phone. 15-minute loop trail to Cumberland Knob. (Altitude 2,855). Loop trail into Gully Creek Gorge. 2 hours. Altitude 2,740.

Julian Price Memorial Park

Located at milepost 295. 4,344 acres. Campground, picnic area, lake, boating, fishing, trails. Alt. 3,400

Linville Falls

Is located at milepost 316.3, with an elevation of 3,250 ft; the 3,000 acre has 20 trailer sites, 55 tent sites, and a 100 picnic sites. There are trails to spectacular views of the Linville Waterfalls and Linville Gorge, a wilderness of the Pisgah National Forest.

Mount Pisgah

Is located at milepost 408.6, with an elevation of 5,000 if; the 690 acre park has 70 trailer sites 70 tent sites, and a 50 picnic sites. A restaurant, camp store, gas station, and lodge are within a reasonable distance of the campground.

Blue Ridge Parkway Hiking

There are many trails that can be accessed from the Blue Ridge Parkway, including the Mountains-to-Sea trail which parallels the parkway for quite a distance (see separate section on the Mountains-to-Sea trail). Here are several of the trails (but not all!) and a brief description:

Mile Post	Description	Length (miles)	Rating
217.5	Bully Creek Trail - Rewarding loop that meanders by stream.	2	Strenuous
Doughton Park area trails			
238.5	Cedar Ridge Trail Great for day hike; vistas and forests.	4.2	Moderate
238.5	Bluff Mountain Trail Parallels Parkway to Milepost 244.7	7.5	Moderate
241.0	Fodder Stack Trail Great variety of plants.	1	Moderate
241.0	Bluff Ridge Trail Primitive trail with steep slopes.	2.8	Strenuous
243.7	Grassy Gap Fire Road Wide enough for side-by-side hiking.	6.5	Moderate
243.7	Basin Creek Trail Access from back-country campground.	3.3	Moderate
244.7	Flat Rock Ridge Trail Forest path with vistas.	5	Moderate
260.3	Jumpingoff Rocks Trail Forest path to vista.	1	Easy
271.9	Cascades Trail Self-guiding 30 minute loop. Heavy forest and a plummeting waterfall. Labeled trail aids.	0.5	Moderate
272.5	Tompkins Knob Trail To Jesse Brown Cabin.	0.6	Easy
Moses H. Cone Memorial Park area trails 25 miles of multi-use trails wind through the former Cone estate, past fields and through woods.			
294.0	Rich Mountain Carriage, Horse, & Hiking Trail.	4.3	Moderate

294.0	Flat Top Mountain Carriage, Horse, & Hiking Trail to lookout tower which offers a panorama of the distant mountains. The trail also passes the Cone family cemetery.	3	Moderate
294.0	Watkins Carriage, Horse, & Hiking Trail.	3.3	Easy/Moderate
294.0	Bass Lake Carriage, Horse, & Hiking Trail.	1.7	Easy
294.0	The Maze Carriage, Horse, & Hiking Trail.	2.3	Moderate
294.0	Ducan Carriage, Horse, & Hiking Trail.	2.5	Moderate
Julian Price Park and Grandfather Mountain area trails			
295.9	Green Knob Trail Loop trail to Green Knob. Follows Sims Creek part way and goes through an old-growth Hemlock grove.	2.3	Moderate/Strenuous
296.5	Boone Fork Trail Stream, forest, and meadows.	4.9	Moderate/Strenuous
297.0	Price Lake Loop Trail Loop around Price Lake. A spring and summer pause for migrating ducks and loons and also home to a resident beaver population.	2.7	Moderate
297.0 - 305.5	Tanawha Trail Diverse features; parallels Parkway to Price Park.	13.5	Moderate/Strenuous
300	Daniel Boone Scout Trail Trail on privately owned Grandfather Mtn. Requires a permit and fee. http://www.grandfather.com		
Linville Gorge area trails			
316.4	Linville Falls Trail A trail through rare virgin forest. No specific time length. Balcony views of the Falls and the incredibly carved gorge. Labeled trail aids.	0.8	Moderate
339.5	Crabtree Falls Loop Trail Loop to view of Falls.	2.6	Strenuous

344.1	Woods Mountain Trail USFS trail.	10.6	Moderate/Strenuous
350.4	Lost Cove Ridge Trail USFS trail. Also called Green Knob Trail. A lookout tower with 360 degree views is about .3 miles.	3.3	Moderate/Strenuous
355.0	Bald Knob Ridge Trail USFS Trail. Virgin red spruce and Fraser fir.	2.8	Easy
359.8	Big Butt Trail Trail continues on USFS lands. Nice wildflower displays just a short distance off the Parkway.	6.2	Strenuous
Craggy Gardens area trails			
364.2	Craggy Pinnacle Trail To panoramic view.	0.7	Moderate
364.6	Craggy Gardens Trail First portion is self-guiding nature trail. Beautiful displays of Catawba Rhododendron bloom in June.	0.8	Moderate
382.0	Mountains to Sea Trail MTS Trail (from Folk Art Center to Milepost 365 spring wildflowers and views; parallels parkway; many accesses). The Mountains to the Sea Trail is a work in progress that will eventually cross North Carolina from west to east. Many sections, including most of the mountain portions, are finished.	7.5	Moderate
393.7	Shut-In Trail/MTS Trail Bent Creek-Walnut Cove	3.1	Strenuous
396.4	Shut-In Trail/MTS Trail Walnut Cove-Sleepy Gap.	1.7	Moderate
397.3	Grassy Knob Trail Steep trail to USFS area.	0.9	Strenuous
397.3	Shut-In Trail/MTS Trail Sleepy Gap-Chestnut Cove.	0.7	Moderate
398.3	Shut-In Trail/MTS Trail Chestnut Cove-Bent Creek Gap.	2.8	Strenuous
400.3	Shut-In Trail/MTS Trail Bent Creek Gap-Beaver Dam Gap.	1.9	Moderate

401.7	Shut-In Trail/MTS Trail Beaver Dam Gap-Stoney Bald.	0.9	Moderate
402.6	Shut-In Trail/MTS Trail Stoney Bald-Big Ridge.	1.2	Strenuous
403.6	Shut-In Trail/MTS Trail Big Ridge-Mills River Valley.	1.1	Moderate/Strenuous
404.5	Shut-In Trail/MTS Trail Mills River Valley-Elk Pasture Gap.	1.2	Strenuous
405.5	Shut-In Trail/MTS Trail Elk Pasture Gap-Mt. Pisgah.	1.7	Strenuous
407.6	Mt. Pisgah Trail 360 degree summit view from 5721 ft. mountain.	1.3	Moderate/Strenuous
407.6	Buck Springs Trail Pisgah Lodge to view.	1.06	Easy/Moderate
408.5	Frying Pan Mountain Trail. To Big Bald. Good wildflower area. Continue on FR 450 to the fire tower for views.	2	Moderate/Strenuous
417.0	East Fork Trail USFS trail access to Shining Rock Wilderness Trail System.	0.1	Easy/Moderate
418.8	Graveyard Fields Loop Trail Loop by a stream with several waterfalls.	2.3	Moderate
422.4	Devil's Courthouse Trail Panoramic summit view.	0.4	Moderate/Strenuous
427.6	Bear Pen Gap Trail Access to Mountains-to-Sea Trail.	0.2	Easy
431.0	Richland Balsam Trail Self-guiding loop through spruce-fir forest near the highest point on the Parkway.	1.5	Moderate
451.2	Waterrock Knob Trail Summit view.	1.2	Moderate/Strenuous

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Gatlinburg, Tennessee

Phone: (615) 436-9564

www.nps.gov/grsm (√14)

Ridge upon ridge of endless forest straddles the border between North Carolina and Tennessee in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. World renowned for the diversity of its plant and animal life, the beauty of its ancient mountains, and the quality of its remnants of Southern Appalachian mountain culture, this is America's most visited national park. Covering more than a half million acres in North Carolina and Tennessee, these ancient mountains are home to a wide variety of plant and animal life unsurpassed in the National Park Service. The Park also offers a glimpse into the lives of early Southern Appalachian farming families and community lifestyles. Seventy-seven historic structures concentrated in five historic districts include a collection of log cabins, barns, churches, grist mills and various outbuildings. In addition to its role in preserving the rich natural and historical heritage, the Park is a place for outdoor recreational pursuits. These range from a short stroll in the woods to a more extensive hike in the backcountry. Camping, fishing, picnicking, and horseback riding, or just viewing magnificent scenery are favorite pastimes. Every season in the Smokies can be the best time to visit: spring wildflowers, summer camping along cool mountain streams, fall foliage, and winter's crisp, blue skies are all reasons to visit. But planning is the key to a safe and enjoyable stay.

Andrews Bald Trail

This is an easy and pleasant hike that begins at the third highest point in the eastern United States. Most any hiker with even the least amount of experience can do this hike without any difficulty. For this reason expect to see other hikers on this trail. No worries though, Andrews Bald is large enough to handle even the biggest crowds and still afford hikers with their own little picnic spot. The views make this a worthwhile hike, in spite of the company. The hike begins at the Clingman's Dome parking lot on Forney Ridge. Be sure to walk the .25 of a mile up the hill to the Clingman's Dome Tower. This is the third highest point in the Eastern U.S. and the highest point in the park at 6643 feet. The trail itself is 1.8 miles long (3.6 miles roundtrip).

hikingthecarolinas.com/andrews.php (√14)

Balsam Corner

(6,040 ft) The trail goes through cool spruce and balsam forest in Great Smoky Mountain National Park. Spring water and shelter are offered near Balsam Corner Treat. Hike starts at Round Bottom parking area beside Straight Fork. The trail features a beautiful stream. From Highway 441 at park entry, turn on to the Big Cove-Road at 9 miles immediately across concrete bridge, turn right on to gravel road, and follow it for 5 miles to Round Bottom Parking area. Walk up road, and cross the concrete bridge. About 150 yards beyond the bridge to the left is the faint Ledge Bald Trail. Make a steady gradual climb to Balsam Divide. Continue north on ridge until crossing Mount Sterling, then make a left to Tri-corner Knob and Mount Guyot on the AT.

Boogerman Trail

The trail winds along Caldwell Fork, twisting and turning over numerous footbridges. The sound of rushing water fills the air and the creek views are "typically Smokies". Although there is frequent horse traffic, that is a small price to pay to view this extremely beautiful creek. Caldwell Fork Trail never leaves sight of the creek. After passing the first sign for the Boogerman Trail the bridge crossings become more frequent. The creek scenes are so beautiful that it is almost surreal. Up until recently the bridges were in a state of disrepair and many were unsafe. Thanks to the diligence of the Park Service, the bridges have been repaired and are all in good shape. The frequent crossings of the bridges are nice because it gives a close up look at one of the more picturesque creeks in the Smokies. During the month of June, the blooming and fragrant Rhododendrons that line the creek put on quite a show.

hikingthecarolinas.com/Boogerman.php (√14)

Cataloochee Mountain

First settled in the early 1830's Cataloochee is still a quiet valley on the fringes of the Smokies. This is where the Blue Ridge Mountains meet the Great Smoky Mountains. Many of the first settlers came here in search of peace and the freedom that wilderness has to offer. Coincidentally, that is the same reason that I like to hike there. The road to the Cataloochee area is dirt, narrow and full of pot holes. The rugged qualities of the road are the source of many visitor's complaints. The positive side of that is that it helps to keep the crowds away from this beautiful, remote valley. Large campers have great difficulty negotiating the winding road, so you won't see many of them. Not hearing the gasoline generators that these campers bring with them is a big plus.

Charlie's Bunion

(5,560ft) Yes it's true that the most crowded section of the Appalachian Trail is the section that leads to Charles Bunion. Perhaps it's the views or maybe it's the ease of access. Either way it's well worth the frequent greetings to other hikers, to make the trip through this busy stretch of the A.T.. Novice hikers enjoy this one way walk of 6 miles because the trail is well graded and doesn't have any great elevation changes. Experienced hikers, including AT Thru Hikers, like this section of the trail because of the stunning views. I like it for both reasons. The trail begins at the Newfound Gap parking lot, in the heart of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. This is a great place to meet people, and other hikers, from all over the world. This section of the AT begins to the left of the path to the rest rooms. For the first mile or so you will see many walkers that wander from the parking lot. Don't worry they won't go far before they turn back.

hikingthecarolinas.com/charles.php (√14)

Clingman's Dome

USGS Maps: Clingman's Dome, Bryson City

Clingman's Dome is the highest mountain in the Great Smoky National Park. Third highest in Eastern America, the highest point on the Appalachian Trail. Observation tower provides splendid panoramic views above Fraser firs. Drive Southwest 1.3 miles to Indian Gap. Can be driven to within a half mile. Park and go southwest on the Appalachian Trail, which passes through, gap just West of Spur road. Take side trail for last 50 yards to tower. The trail provides a strenuous 2 mile roundtrip.

Deep Creek

Is 3 miles north of Bryson City. There is a 7-day camping limit from May 15 -October 31 and a 14-day limit during the rest of the year. There are 118 individual sites and 6 group sites. This campsite is located on Deep Creek, hence the name, which offers excellent tubing in the warm summer months. Open April-October.

Mount Cammerer

At 4928 feet in elevation, Mt. Cammerer is on the edge a precipitous slope overlooking the Pigeon River Gorge.

The mountain directly across the gorge with the white aviation tower on it is the 4263' Snowbird Mountain. The elevation of the gorge that the fire-tower overlooks below is less than 2000'. Also below you and outside of the park is the water tower for the hydro-electric plant in the Big Creek area. To the south is the Mt. Sterling Ridge with another interesting fire-tower on its highest point. Beyond that is a seemingly endless expanse of mountains we call the Smokies.

hikingthecarolinas.com/mt_camerrer.php (√14)

Mount LeConte

To reach the trailhead from North Carolina you must first drive over the crest of the Smokies at Newfound Gap. As you descend on 441, driving towards Alum Cave Trail, the ridges that tower above the road show the exposed sandstone that makes up the backbone of the Smokies. These are the first glimpses of the ever changing mountain terrain that is a characteristic of the 6595 foot monolith you are about to climb. Evidence of landslides that are the result of steep slopes and 80+ inches of annual rainfall surround you as you approach the trail.

hikingthecarolinas.com/test.php (√14)

Mount Sterling Loop

Mt Sterling is in the northwestern section of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. This is a heavily traveled part of the park but it is still possible to enjoy the many features this area has to offer. This is a loop hike that requires a minimum of a two night stay in the backcountry. The Laurel Gap Shelter and Mt. Sterling campsites are rationed meaning that reservations are necessary to camp in these locations. The backcountry reservation center is open 7 days a week from 8AM to 6PM and can be reached at (423) 436-1231. Campsite 39, in the Cataloochee area is not rationed but you still must fill out a backcountry permit. The Backcountry Camping Link has complete details about permit procedures. This process is essential to the survival of the Park because of the heavy traffic it receives. The hike begins and ends at Pin Oak Gap on Balsam Mountain Road. The road is a dirt road that takes you deep into the backcountry of the Balsam Mountain Area. Unfortunately it is only open from Memorial Day to Labor Day. I highly recommend picking up a trail map from the Park Service before heading into the backcountry. It sells for the paltry sum of one dollar and is a wealth of information. It can also prevent getting lost in the backcountry.

hikingthecarolinas.com/mt.php (√14)

Pretty Hollow Gap

USGS Maps: Cove Creek Gap, Luftee Knob

From Cataloochee Valley in the Great Smoky National Park the trail has an easy grade after the first 2.5 mile climb. Much of the route is high on the gorge above a beautiful stream. Take US 276 for 5.8 miles North from US 19 at Dellwood; turn left onto SR 1395 (old NC 284) just before I-40 entrance. Go 7.9 miles turn left onto paved road. After 2.9 miles turn left at bridge in Cataloochee Valley, drive 2 miles to bridge at old schoolhouse. Park near gate to dirt road, cross gate and head West. Follow trail signs up the creek to Pretty Hollow Gap. Worthwhile to go 2 miles more to Mount Sterling with magnificent views from tower. This trip can be combined with the Cataloochee Valley hike described above. 12 mile round trip.

Ramsey Cascades

There are many beautiful creek hikes in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park and beauty is in the eye of the beholder. While it is difficult to say which is **THE** most beautiful creek hike, the hike to the Ramsey Cascades must rank in the top ten. Close to Gatlinburg, TN., a mere 15 minute drive, this hike is easily accessible from one of the most visited towns in the Smokies. The countless waterfalls that line the trail make this a wonderful hike to "walk off" a huge meal! Big Creek, Eagle Creek, Hazel Creek and Deep Creek are a few of the more well known creek hikes. Ramsay Cascades is not as well known but ranks in my top 10 creek hikes of the Smokies. This one is great for a day hike and no horses are allowed. The absence of horse traffic means a better quality of trail and fewer insects.

hikingthecarolinas.com/Ramsey_Cascades.php (√14)

Smokemont

Reservations available. It is adjacent to Newfound Gap Road 6 miles north of Cherokee. It is opened year around, and there is a 7-day camping limit from May 15 – October 31 and a 14 day limit during the remainder of the year. There are 140 individual and 10 group sites open March-October. Camping supplies can be purchased in Cherokee.

**NORTH CAROLINA
NATIONAL
SEA SHORES**

Cape Hatteras National Seashore

P.O. Box 190

Buxton, NC 27920

(252) 995-6018

<http://www.nps.gov/caha/index.htm> (√14)

A thin broken strand of islands curves out into the Atlantic Ocean and then back again in a sheltering embrace of North Carolina's mainland coast and its offshore sounds. These are the Outer Banks of North Carolina. For thousands of years these barrier islands have survived the onslaught of wind and sea. Today their long stretches of beach, sand dunes, marshes, and woodlands are set aside as Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

CAMPING

Camping is permitted ONLY at designated campgrounds. Camping reservations cannot exceed 14 consecutive days. All campgrounds have modern rest rooms, potable water, unheated showers, grills, and tables. NO utility connections are available. The Frisco Campground is located among sand dunes. The other three are on level ground. Soil of all the campgrounds is sandy; therefore, longer than normal tent stakes are recommended. There are no shade trees. Mosquitoes may be a problem; netting and repellent are recommended. The campgrounds are located on the ocean side separated from the beach by barrier dunes. No more than two vehicles (pop-up camper is considered a vehicle) and six persons may occupy a single site. Parking space for extra vehicles is severely limited, so please plan accordingly. If you must bring more than two vehicles, we recommend you make arrangements to park your extra vehicle outside the park or rent an extra campsite.

Cape Point

Located at Buxton near the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. There are 202 sites with drinking water, grills, tables, comfort station, and outdoor showers. Fee area.

Ocracoke

Located on the ocean side of Ocracoke Island. There are 136 sites with drinking water, grills, tables, toilets, and showers. Fee area.

Oregon Inlet

Located on the south shore of Bodie Island near the bridge of Hatteras Island. There are 120 sites with, comfort stations, outdoor showers, water, grills, and tables available. For detailed information and regulations contact the superintendent, Rt. 1, Box 675. Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Manteo, NC 27954. Fees area.

Frisco

Located 5 miles northeast of Hatteras Village on NC 12. There are 136 with grills, drinking water, tables, outdoor showers, and comfort station. Fee area.

The Bodie Island Visitor Center near Bodie Island Lighthouse, the Cape Hatteras Visitor Center near Cape Hatteras Lighthouse and the Visitor Center at Silver Lake Harbor in Ocracoke Village are other attractions. The Cape Hatteras Lighthouse is the nations tallest at 208 feet in height. Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge is within the Park and is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It includes 5,880 acres on Hatteras Island between Pamlico Sound and the Atlantic Ocean.

Other Resources



Sunset over Cold Mountain

Contents

1- Index

2- Military Bases

3- Unique Camping Opportunities

4- Reference Websites

6- Books

Military Base Listing

For reservation form and information regarding scout group use of military bases, see section VIII.

Coast Guard

Elizabeth City Support Center, Elizabeth City, NC ----- 919-399-3941
Yorktown Coast Guard Reserve Training Center, Yorktown, VA--- 804-898-3500

Marine Corps

Albany MC Logistics Base, Albany, GA ----- 912-439-5000
Cherry Point MCAS, New Bern, NC ----- 919-466-2811
Camp Lejune, Jacksonville, NC ----- 919-451-1113
New River MCAS, Jacksonville, NC ----- 919-455-6554
Beaufort MCAS, Beaufort, SC ----- 803-846-2111
Parris Island MC Recruit Depot, Beaufort, SC ----- 803-525-2111
Henderson Hall, (South of Washington DC), VA----- 202-649-2013
Quantico MC D&E Comand, (South of Washington DC), VA ----- 202-640-2121

Army

Fort Benning, Columbus, GA ----- 404-544-1011
Fort Gordon, Augusta, GA ----- 404-791-0110
Hunter Army Airfield, Savannah, GA ----- 912-352-5500
Fort McPherson, Atlanta, GA ----- 404-752-2980
Fort Stewart, Hinesville, GA ----- 912-767-4231
Fort Bragg, Fayetteville, NC ----- 919-396-0011
Fort Jackson, Columbia, SC ----- 803-751-7511
Fort A.P. Hill, Bowling Green, VA ----- 804-633-5041
Arlington Hall, Station, VA ----- 202-692-6200
Fort Belvoir, (South of Washington DC), VA----- 804-878-5251
Cameron Station, Alexandria, VA ----- 202-545-6700
Fort Eustis, Williamsburg/Newport News, VA ----- 804-878-5251
Fort Lee, Petersburg, VA ----- 804-734-1011
Fort Monroe, Hampton, VA ----- 804-727-2111
Fort Myer, Arlington, VA ----- 202-693-1193
Fort Pickett, Blackstone, VA ----- 804-292-7231
Vint Hill Farms, (South of Washington DC), VA ----- 703-347-6000

Air Force

Langley AFB, Hampton, VA ----- 804-764-9990
Moody AFB, Valdosta, GA----- 912-333-4211
Robins AFB, Macon, GA ----- 912-926-1113
Pope AFB, Fayetteville, NC ----- 919-394-0001
Seymore Johnson AFB, Raleigh, NC----- 919-736-0000
Charleston AFB, Charleston, SC ----- 803-566-5584

Navy

Atlanta NAS, Atlanta, GA ----- 404-424-8811
Kings Bay NSB, (North of Jacksonville, FL), GA----- 912-673-2000
Navy Supply Corps School, Athens, GA ----- 404-549-6620
Charleston Navy Base, Charleston, SC----- 803-743-4111
Dam Neck Fleet CTC, Virginia Beach, VA ----- 804-425-2000
Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base, Newport News, VA----- 804-464-7000
Norfolk Navy Base, Norfolk, VA ----- 804-444-1521
Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Norfolk, VA ----- 804-393-3000
Oceana NAS, Virginia Beach, VA ----- 804-425-2000
Yorktown Naval Weapons Station, Yorktown, VA----- 804-887-4000

Unique Sites to Visit with a Troop or Pack

Patriot's Point – Over 350,000 Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, church groups, school groups, and organized civic youth groups have camped on board the YORKTOWN since the program began in 1980. Kids sleep in the bunks where the sailors slept, eat in the CPO mess, hop in the cockpit of a real fighter jet as they learn about aviation; in short, let their imaginations run wild! www.patriotspoint.org/ (√14)

Stone Mountain, Georgia- Hike to the top of Stone Mountain, then ride a gondola back to the campsite! Watch a laser light show in the evening. Not exactly wilderness camping, but a lot of fun. Check their website for current information and fees. Ask about the group camping area- 770-498-5636. www.stonemountainpark.com/ (√14)

The Lost Sea - The Lost Sea is America's largest underground lake. The full extent of it is still unknown, despite the government's best attempts using modern equipment. The visible portion of the lake is 800 feet long by 220 feet wide. There are glass-bottom boat tours and cave camping available for your enjoyment. www.thelostsea.com (√14)

Wild Tour Overnight Adventure !

This special tour is made for organized groups such as the Scouts, schools, camps, churches, etc. Those who participate in the tour are treated to a regular cavern tour as well as an exciting tour into the undeveloped cave rooms where one crawls through cracks, crevices, nooks, and crannies. On this tour, guides point out many striking formations such as anthodites (cave flowers), which are so rare that the Lost Sea contains 50% of the world's known formations. Also, visitors view rooms where ancient jaguar roamed, moonshine was made, and saltpeter was mined for gunpowder by Confederate soldiers. Exploring the Lost Sea will prove to be fun and educational and will not be forgotten for years to come.



Reference Websites- Check these for more information

Please note- websites often change & sometimes disappear- these websites were all active on April 25, 2014

Other Parks & Forests

Blue Ridge Parkway- www.nps.gov/blri (√14)

Dupont State Forest - www.dupontforest.com (√14)

Great Smokey Mountains National Park- www.nps.gov/grsm (√14)

NC State Park System - www.ncparks.gov/Visit/main.php (√14)

National Park Service - www.nps.gov (√14)

North Carolina National Forests - ncnatural.com/NCUSFS/index.html (√14)

Cape Hatteras National Seashore - www.nps.gov/caha(√14)

Smoky Mountains

- camping - www.great.smoky.mountains.national-park.com/camping.htm (√14)
- hiking - www.great.smoky.mountains.national-park.com/hike.htm (√14)

Boy Scouts

Boy Scouts of America - www.scouting.org(√14)

Scout Camps – www.scoutcamp.org (√14)

Daniel Boone Council – www.danielboonecouncil.org (√14)

Tsali Lodge - www.tsalilodge.org (√14)

US Scouting Service Project- www.usscouts.org (√14)

National Order of the Arrow – www.oa-bsa.org (√14)

Southern Region 5 OA – www.sr5.org (√14)

BSA High Adventure

- Philmont - www.scouting.org/philmont (√14)
- Northern Tier - www.ntier.org (√14)
- Florida Sea Base - www.bsaseabase.org (√14)

Hiking and Camping

Guide for South Appalachian Hiking – www.hikingthecarolinas.com (√14)

Blue Ridge Parkway Trails - www.brptrails.com (√14)

Hiking in Western North Carolina - www.hikewnc.info (√14)

North Carolina Hiking and Backpacking Guide -
gorp.away.com/gorp/activity/hiking/hik_nc.htm (√14)

Western North Carolina Hiking Trails-

www.mountaintravelguide.com/North%20Carolina/NorthCarolinaHikingTrails.htm(√14)

Mountains-to-Sea Trail - www.ncmst.org (√14)

Day hikes - www.hikewnc.info/besthikes/hikes.html(√14)

Appalachian Trail Home Page - www.appalachiantrail.org (√14)

Foothill Trails Conference - www.foothillstrail.org (√14)

Other Websites

American Camping Association - www.aca-camps.org (√14)

National Forest Service – www.fs.fed.us (√14)

National Park Service - www.nps.gov(√14)

National Geographies Trail Illustrated – www.natgeomaps.com/trailsillustrated (√14)

Outdoor Outfitters

Diamond Brand Camping Center - www.diamondbrand.com (√14)

Black Dome - www.blackdome.com (√14)

REI - www.rei.com (√14)

Campmor - www.campmor.com (√14)

Mountain Gear - www.mgear.com (√14)

Books

Guide to the Foothills Trail, By The Foothills Trail Conference 2003

The essential guidebook to one of the South's hidden gems - the Foothills Trail. This guide includes detailed topo maps with simple and informative descriptions. A great guide for a great trail.

Hiking South Carolina, By Clark, John and John Dantzler 1998; ISBN 1560446021

This regularly updated, comprehensive guide includes accurate information on access, side trips and safety. Sketch maps and photos included.

Trekking The Southern Appalachians: Carolinas, TN, GA; ISBN 0898869668

Each trek in this guide was chosen for its unique natural features or cultural or historical legacy. 25 treks (multi-day outings averaging 30-50 miles long). Three itineraries with camp options for each trek-you choose the miles-per-day distance you travel

The Best Hikes of Pisgah National Forest (Paperback) by C. Franklin Goldsmith, III, Shannon E. G. Hamrick, H. James Hamrick, Jr.; ISBN: 0895871904

Hiking North Carolina (Paperback) by Randy Johnson; ISBN: 1560442115

50 Hikes in the Mountains of North Carolina: Walks and Hikes from the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Great Smokies, Second Edition by Robert Leonard Williams; ISBN: 0881504491

North Carolina Hiking Trails, by Allen De Hart

Trails of the Triangle: 170 Hikes in the Raleigh/Durham/Chapel Hill Area, by Allen De Hart, Publisher: John F. Blair Publisher (March, 1997) , ISBN: 0895871602

Long Trails of the Southeast - by Johnny Molloy, Publisher: Menasha Ridge Press; September 1, 2002; ISBN: 0897325303

Thru Hiker's Guide to America - by E. Schlimmer, Publisher: International Marine/Ragged Mountain Press; (February 14, 2005), ISBN: 0071433643

Section 10-Lakes



Lake Jocassee, South Carolina

Lake Jocassee

161 Holcombe Circle
Salem, SC 29676

Lake Jocassee is known around the mountains for its clear water that flows from Gorges State Park. Many of the rivers and waterfalls that are found on the south side of the Blue Ridge Escarpment run into this lake, creating very clear water as all of those rivers are protected and virtually free from pollution. Although there are private houses on the lake where owners enjoy waterskiing, boating, and jet skiing, fun can also be had without being an owner. Canoe trips are popular on the lake, and can be done from different boat ramps to the Devils Fork State Park, which offers camping and fishing on the lake. The lake is great for fishing trout. Finally, snorkeling is popular for campers who do not regularly make it to the beach. The water is so clear that often times the visibility is over 20 feet! As always, make sure that your group has a BSA certified life guard and takes all the Safe Swim Afloat precautions before embarking on such a trip. Lake Jocassee does not have any lifeguards and does not charter any for trips.

After a day or two at the lake, campers can hike the Foothills Trail (<http://www.sctrails.net/Trails/alltrails/nrt/Foothills.html>, ^{v14}) that goes around the lake for pristine views or a multi-day backpacking trip. As mentioned above, there are also numerous waterfalls just upstream in Gorges State Park (<http://www.ncparks.gov/Visit/parks/gorg/main.php>, ^{v14}).

For more information, please see the link below:

<http://www.southcarolinaparks.com/devilsfork/introduction.aspx>, ^(v14)

For information on camping at Devils Fork State Park, please click on the link below:

<http://www.southcarolinaparks.com/devilsfork/camping.aspx>

Lake James

2785 Highway 126
Nebo, NC 28761

Lake James is one of the most popular lakes in the area and is certainly popular for folks from the Asheville area, mainly due to its close proximity. In fact, it is only 45 minutes away from the Daniel Boone Council Office, which is located in downtown Asheville. Many private owners have houses on the lake, but troops with certain resources can bring their own boats and put them on the lake via various boat ramps located across the lakeshore. Scouts can then participate in aquatic activities such as motor boating, waterskiing, tubing, and more! If that is not for you, canoeing and fishing are prime activities at the lake. The Lake James State Park has recently been expanded to be over 4 times the previous size, and now has land on either end of the lake. This makes a canoe trip very possible with camping available at both State Park sites. If you are looking for a relaxing trip with time on the beach, both State Park sites also offer that, and there are many public islands on the lake that are owned by Duke Power (no camping) and can be visited at any time from sunrise to sunset. The new Paddy Creek Recreation Area even offers kayaks and canoes for daily rental to explore the lake. To add to the excitement, one access point into the Linville Gorge Wilderness and Shortoff Mountain is off of NC 126, which crosses and goes around most of the lake. Finally, the views from Lake James are stunning. On a clear day, one can see the South Mountains, Shortoff Mountain, Mount Mitchell, and even Grandfather Mountain. As always, make sure that your group has a BSA certified life guard and takes all the Safe Swim Afloat precautions before embarking on such a trip. Lake James does not have any lifeguards and does not charter any for trips.

Please visit the site below for general information about Lake James

<http://www.lakejames.com/> (v14)

Please visit the site below for information on camping at Lake James

<http://www.ncparks.gov/Visit/parks/laja/main.php> (v14)

[Lake James Camping Reservations](#) (v14)

Shortoff Mountain from the South
Shore of Lake James, NC

