

GENERAL INFORMATION
GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK
NORTH CAROLINA-TENNESSEE



A TYPICAL SCENE IN THE GREAT SMOKIES

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This pamphlet is issued informally to meet the many requests for information concerning the Great Smoky Mountains National Park area and immediate neighborhood, and not as an official circular such as is published for those national parks that are completely established and are being fully developed for visitors.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Ray Lyman Wilbur, Secretary
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Horace M. Albright, Director

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

Authority for the establishment of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina and Tennessee is contained in the act of Congress approved May 22, 1926. That act in effect provided that lands within the exterior boundaries of the park as described and approved by the Secretary of the Interior could be accepted by him, in his discretion, if tendered to the United States in fee simple for park purposes; furthermore that, when a minimum of 150,000 acres of such land had been so accepted, administration and protection could be undertaken, but that no general development could be undertaken until a minimum of 427,000 acres had been tendered and accepted. At this writing 297,000 acres are under the administration and protection of the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior.

It was estimated that \$10,000,000 would be needed to acquire all the land within the area. None of this was Government land, but all privately owned. A great portion, practically primitive in character, was in the hands of lumber companies. Of this ten million dollars about one-half was pledged by the States of North Carolina and Tennessee and their citizens, and the other half contributed on a basis of matching dollar for dollar by the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial in memory of Laura Spelman Rockefeller. Both States are actively engaged in acquiring the land still needed to complete the park, and it is hoped that this work may be finished within a comparatively short time. As the United States is prohibited by law from undertaking any development of the park until the last acreage has been turned over to it for that purpose, visitors will not find the conveniences and interesting activities they are used to in the other national parks of the system. However, due to the location of the area and its great popularity among those seeking recreation and enjoyment in the

open, numerous comfortable accommodations are available at hotels and inns located near the park boundaries, and a few carried on under temporary permit within the park area itself. A list of these is given on pages 8 and 9.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Great Smoky Mountains, the most massive mountain uplift in the East, run the entire length of the park. The following is quoted from the writings of the late Horace Kephart: "Nearly always there hovers over the high tops and around them, a tenuous mist, a dreamy blue haze, like that of Indian summer, or deeper. Often it grows so dense as almost to shut out the distant view, as smoke does that has spread from a far-off forest fire. Then it is a 'great smoke' that covers all the outlying world; the rim of the earth is but a few miles away; beyond is mystery, enchantment.

"Mysterious, indeed, this Smoky Mountain region has been ever since the first white explorer, De Soto, heard of it, nearly four centuries ago. At intervals of many years a few adventurous botanists and geologists have roamed through its great forest -- Bartram, Michaux, Gray, Buckley, Mitchell, Guyot, and others -- but their reports reached none but scientific circles. *** The wildest and most picturesque highland east of the Rockies remained virtually unknown until about ten years ago. Even to-day there are gulfs in the Smokies that no man is known to have penetrated.***"

The axis of the park runs nearly east and west. The greatest length is 51.5 miles and the greatest breadth is 18.5 miles. The park contains the largest and finest virgin hardwood forest in the United States, also the largest virgin forest of red spruce. More than 200,000 acres of the park is virgin forest. Much of the remainder is a very fine forest of second growth which within a few years will closely approximate virgin forest conditions. Nowhere in the world is there such a variety of plant life in an equal area. There are 152 varieties of trees alone.

The highest mountains are covered with unusually dense forests consisting of spruce, balsam, and some hemlock. They are difficult of penetration owing to wind falls and dense brush. Mountains of intermediate height are covered with hardwood, beech predominating.

ese beech forests are open with a clean forest floor and somewhat resemble a well kept country estate. Still another contrast is formed by mountain tops that are covered only with grass. These are locally called "balds." So far scientists have been unable to explain them. They offer unobstructed views in all directions and are one of the finest attractions of the park.

The mountain streams are bordered with rhododendrons and laurel and the mountain slopes are thick with flame azalea and wild honeysuckle beneath the dense stand of trees. The bold mountain summits and knife-like ridges have a dense covering of rhododendrons and sand myrtle which make them appear from a distance less rugged and precipitous. There are two species of rose-flower rhododendrons on these mountain summits. One is the large Rhododendron catawbiense which sometimes grows three times as high as one's head and has large clusters of rose-purple flowers that beautify the mountains from June to September. It is also to be appreciated when the flowers are gone because of its leaves -- gracefully drooping, glossy, green, and almost white beneath. The other rhododendron is a short shrub rarely over waist-high, with dense clusters of smaller rose-colored flowers. The leaves are small and tend to stand erect rather than to droop. They are also characterized by a slight scaliness and small dots on the under surfaces of the leaves and petioles which fact suggested the specific name punctatum. Since the flowers of this rhododendron are so numerous and the bushes are uniform in height, the end of a mountain often appears as a solid sheet of rose color. Mountain laurel, known to the mountaineer as "ivy," reaches its maximum development in the Smokies. It is not unusual to find arborescent laurel one foot or more in diameter and many feet high.

QUALLA INDIAN RESERVATION

Visitors to the park will be interested in the Cherokee Indians on the Qualla Indian Reservation, which is immediately south of the park. Although the government has instituted here a comprehensive system of education and modern methods of living, ancient ceremonies and sports are still preserved as racial customs. The Indians still play the Cherokee game of ball -- a sport far too strenuous for members of the Caucasian race. There are many experts in archery and blow gun. In 1838 an attempt was

made to round up the Cherokees and remove them to Oklahoma. A considerable band escaped to the fastnesses of the Great Smoky Mountains and could not be found. The Cherokees on the Qualla Reservation are descendants of those who hid in the mountains.

FISHING

There are 600 miles of ideal trout streams in the park. Easily accessible waters have been fished so much, with so little restocking, that good sport is not assured in them. The inaccessible waters provide good fishing, almost without exception. Persons desiring to fish must secure a fishing license as required by the laws of North Carolina and Tennessee. The nonresident license in North Carolina is \$3.10, and in Tennessee, \$2.50. Persons who fish in the North Carolina and Tennessee sections of the park must secure a license in each State.

In order to restock the streams with trout certain of them have been closed to fishing. In the Tennessee section of the park Cosby Creek, Fish Camp Prong, East Fork of Little River above Fish Camp Prong and West Fork of Little River have been closed. In the North Carolina section of the park Twentymile Creek, Forney Creek, and Deep Creek have been closed. All closed streams are plainly marked by signs.

HIKING

The park is a paradise for hikers. From Gatlinburg, Tennessee, the ascent of Mt. LeConte is recommended. Crude but comfortable accommodations will be found on the summit. From Greenbrier Cove, Tennessee, Mt. Guyot can be reached. From Newfound Gap on the State line, Mt. Kephart, altitude 6,200 feet, 3.4 miles, will offer a splendid view. The hike of seven miles west from Newfound Gap to Clingman's Dome is popular with hardy hikers.

From Bryson City, North Carolina, the hike to Deep Creek, Andrews Bald, and Clingman's Dome is recommended.

Numerous springs provide a pure supply of drinking water and ordinarily are found near the mountain tops. Water from the

streams should not be drunk.

ALTITUDE OF SOME OF THE HIGH POINTS IN THE PARK

Andrews Bald.....	5860	Hughes Ridge at	
Blanket Mountain.....	4609	State Line.....	5400
Brushy Mountain.....	4911	Indian Gap.....	5266
Bull Head.....	4450	Mt. Kephart.....	6150
Cades Cove.....	1807	Mt. LeConte:	
Mt. Chapman.....	6430	(High Top).....	6593
Chimney Top.....	4740	(Cliff Top).....	6555
Clingman's Dome.....	6642	(Myrtle Point).....	6500
Mt. Collins.....	6188	Low Gap.....	4842
Cove Mountain.....	4091	Meigs Mountain.....	3956
Dalton Gap.....	2960	Mt. Mingus.....	5800
Deals Gap.....	1957	Miry Ridge at	
Ekaneetlee Gap.....	3852	State Line.....	5240
Elkmont.....	2196	Newfound Gap.....	5045
Fightin' Creek Gap.....	2240	Parson's Bald.....	4730
Gatlinburg.....	1292	Rich Mountain.....	3865
Greenbrier.....	1680	Round Top.....	3080
Greenbrier Pinnacle.....	4585	Siler's Bald.....	5620
Gregory Bald.....	4730	Smokemont.....	2198
Mt. Guyot.....	6621	Thunderhead.....	5530

WILD ANIMALS

Although hunting is not permitted in the park, former residents of the area were hunters by instinct, and have in the past greatly reduced the wild life. Deer are practically exterminated. Some bears, wild cats, and smaller animals, and some ruffed grouse and wild turkeys remain. A comprehensive restocking program of animals and game birds once native to the region will be undertaken.

MOTOR CAMPING

As yet no camp grounds for motorists have been prepared and available sites for camping are, at this time, few. Cabins for motorists will be found at all communities surrounding the park and on all approach roads.

WILDERNESS CAMPING

The Mountain View Hotel, Gatlinburg, Tennessee, supplies saddle animals, pack outfits, guides, etc. This service may also be secured from Thomas W. Alexander, Great Smoky Mountains Camps and Tours, Asheville, North Carolina. Willie Myers, Cades Cove, Tennessee, supplies saddle horses and guides. Prospective customers should write to the above for rates and reservations.

ADMINISTRATION

The representative of the National Park Service in immediate charge of the park is J. R. Eakin, Superintendent, with temporary headquarters at Gatlinburg, Tennessee. An assistant chief ranger maintains a small office at Bryson City, North Carolina.

HOW TO REACH THE PARK

By Automobile

Paved highways from all sections of the country converge at Asheville, North Carolina, and Knoxville, Tennessee, 70 and 42 miles respectively from the park. State Highway No. 10 from Asheville, and State Highways Nos. 35 and 71, and 33 and 73 from Knoxville lead to the park.

Waynesville, North Carolina, on State Highway No. 10, is the entrance to the Cataloochee Creek country; Newport, Tennessee, on State Highway No. 9, is the entrance to the Cosby Creek section; and Maryville, Tennessee is the entrance to the Cades Cove section. Trips to these sections are not recommended in wet weather but motorists will find these trips both scenic and enjoyable in dry weather.

Maryville is also on the Scenic Loop, (Knoxville, Maryville, Gatlinburg, to Knoxville), and from this point State Highway No. 72 and then State Highways Nos. 108 and 10 lead to Deals Gap, Calderwood Dam and Lake, Cheoah Dam and Lake, Tapoco, Cheoah River, Santeetlah Dam and Lake, Nantahala Look-out, Nantahala Gorge, Bryson City, and Asheville. These points are all outside the park but afford remarkably scenic trips.

From near Gatlinburg, Tennessee, there is an excellent highway (State - Number 71), leading to Newfound Gap, where it crosses the Great Smoky Mountains at an altitude of 5,045 feet. In 17 miles the motorist climbs 3,752 feet. North Carolina is now building a highway from Newfound Gap to Smokemont where it will connect with the highway system. This road is scheduled for completion by July 1, but drivers should make inquiries before attempting the trip down the mountain. The old road leading down into North Carolina is narrow, steep, and dangerous, and should not be attempted.

By Railroad

The Southern Railway and the Louisville and Nashville Railroad serve Knoxville, Tennessee. From Knoxville bus service is available via Sevierville to Gatlinburg, both in Tennessee, where local transportation may be secured. The Southern Railway also serves Asheville. Bus service is available from Asheville, North Carolina, via Waynesville, to Bryson City, North Carolina. Bryson City, Waynesville, and Gatlinburg are near the boundaries of the park.

ACCOMMODATIONS IN OR NEAR THE PARK

No franchises have yet been issued by the Secretary of the Interior for establishment of utilities in the park, and the National Park Service pending the establishment of authorized service has no control over the rates and operations of these enterprises. Operations outside the park are not subject to supervision of any sort by park authorities.

Asheville, North Carolina, and Knoxville, Tennessee, have accommodations to suit any taste and pocketbook.

All of the following hotels, etc., are operated on the American plan except Hotel LeFaine which is operated on the European plan. In most cases, special rates by the week or month may be secured.

TENNESSEE:

Per Day

In the Park
(Under temporary permit)

At Cades Cove	John Oliver's Lodge.....	\$2.00
" "	Ekaneetlee Lodge - (Willie Myers).....	2.00
Elkmont	Wonderland Club Hotel.....	3.50-4.00
" "	The Tavern.....	3.25
Gatlinburg	Indian Gap Hotel.....	2.50
Greenbrier Cove	LeConte Hotel.....	2.00
Tremont	Tremont Hotel.....	3.00

Near the Park

Gatlinburg	Mountain View Hotel.....	3.50-6.00
" "	Riverside Hotel.....	2.00
Kinzel Springs	Kinzel Springs Hotel.....	3.50
" "	Smoky Mountain Inn.....	3.50
Newport	Rhea Mims Hotel.....	3.00-4.00
Line Springs	Line Springs Hotel.....	2.00
Maryville	Montvale Springs Hotel.....	2.50-3.50
" "	Blount Hotel.....	2.00
Sevierville	Central Hotel.....	2.50-3.00
" "	Davis Hotel.....	2.50-3.00
Tallassee	Tallassee Springs Hotel.....	3.00
Townsend	Townsend Inn.....	2.50
" "	Overlook Cottage.....	2.50
Walland	Chilhowee Inn.....	2.50

NORTH CAROLINA:

In the Park
(Under temporary permit)

Cataloochee Creek	Jarvis Palmer Lodge.....	2.50
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Near the Park

At Bryson City	Freeman Hotel.....	\$ 3.75 up
" "	Fryemont Inn.....	3.75 up
" "	Calhoun Hotel.....	2.00
" "	Entella Hotel.....	3.50
Tapoco	Tapoco Lodge.....	3.50
Waynesville	Hotel LeFaine	
	(European plan).....	2.00 up
"	Hotel Gordon.....	3.50 up
"	Hotel Waynesville.....	3.00 up
		Per Week
Waynesville	Anthony Wayne Hotel.....	17.50 up
"	Piedmont Hotel.....	17.50 up
"	Dunham House.....	15.00 up
"	Palmer House.....	15.00 up
"	Bon Air.....	20.00 up
"	Georgia Home.....	15.00 up
"	Mitchell House.....	15.00 up
"	Miller House.....	15.00 up
"	Adger Home.....	15.00 up

RULES AND REGULATIONS

(Approved May 9, 1932, to continue in force and effect until otherwise directed by the Secretary of the Interior.)

General Regulations

The following rules and regulations for the government of Great Smoky Mountains National Park are hereby established and made public pursuant to authority conferred by the acts of Congress approved August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 536), and May 22, 1926 (44 Stat. 616), and acts supplementary thereto and amendatory thereof. These rules and regulations are promulgated to cover only the Government owned or controlled lands and waters in the park area.

1. Preservation of natural features and curiosities.--The destruction, injury, defacement, or disturbance in any way of the public buildings, signs, equipment, or other property, or the trees, flowers, vegetation, rocks, minerals, animal, or bird or other life is prohibited: Provided, That flowers may be gathered in small quantities when in the judgment of the superintendent, or other authorized representative of the National Park Service, their removal will not impair the beauty of the park. Before any flowers are picked, permit must be secured from the ranger in charge.

2. Camping.--When the development of the park is undertaken by the National Park Service, adequate camping places with pure water and other conveniences will be provided. Until such time no camping of any sort will be permitted except by special permit of the superintendent or his authorized representatives to hikers for overnight accommodation. In such instances the following rules must be carefully observed: Wood for fuel only can be taken from dead or fallen trees. Combustible rubbish shall be burned on camp fires, and all other garbage and refuse of all kinds shall be buried.

3. Fires.--Fires constitute one of the greatest perils to the park; they shall not be kindled near trees, dead wood, moss, dry leaves, forest mold, or other vegetable refuse, but in some open space on rocks or earth. Should camp be made in a locality where no such open space exists or is provided, the dead wood, moss, dry

leaves, etc., shall be scraped away to the rock or earth over an area considerably larger than that required for the fire.

Fires shall be lighted only when necessary, and when no longer needed shall be completely extinguished and all embers and bed smothered with earth or water, so that there remains no possibility of reignition.

Smoking may be forbidden by the superintendent in any part of the park during the fire season when in his judgment the fire hazard makes such action advisable.

NOTE.--Especial care shall be taken that no lighted match, cigar, cigarette or burning pipe tobacco is dropped in any grass, twigs, leaves, or tree mold.

4. Hunting.--The park is a sanctuary for wild life of every sort, and all hunting or the killing, wounding, frightening, pursuing, or capturing at any time of any bird or wild animal, except dangerous animals, when it is necessary to prevent them from destroying human lives or inflicting personal injury, or taking the eggs of any bird, is prohibited within the limits of said park. Firearms are prohibited within the park except upon written permission of the superintendent.

5. Fishing.--Fishing with nets, seines, traps, or by the use of drugs or explosives or in any other way than with rod, hook, and line held in hand, or for merchandise or profit, is prohibited. Fishing in the park will be permitted only during the open season as prescribed for the adjoining counties by the States of North Carolina and Tennessee. Bass less than 8 inches, rainbow trout less than 7 inches, and brook trout less than 6 inches in length shall be carefully handled with moist hands and returned to the water at once. Fish retained shall be killed immediately upon being removed from the hook.

Ten bass per person and twenty trout per person fishing shall constitute the limit for a day's catch. In the discretion of the Superintendent the limit for a day's catch may be increased or decreased in certain waters, indicated by posted notices.

Any of the waters of the park may be closed to fishing by the Superintendent when, in his judgment, such action is advisable to permit restocking.

6. Private operations.--No person, firm, or corporation shall engage in any business, or erect buildings in the park without permission in writing from the Director of the National Park Service, Washington, D.C.; nor shall any person or persons reside or be permitted to reside on park land without authority of the Director or his authorized representative.

7. Cameras.--Still and motion-picture cameras may be freely used in the park for general scenic purposes. For the filming of motion pictures requiring the use of artificial or special settings, or involving the performance of a professional cast, permission must first be obtained from the superintendent of the park.

8. Gambling.--Gambling in any form, or the operation of gambling devices, whether for merchandise or otherwise, is prohibited.

9. Advertisements.--Private notices or advertisements shall not be posted or displayed within the park, excepting such as the park superintendent deems necessary for the convenience and guidance of the public.

10. Grazing.--The running at large, herding, or grazing of livestock of any kind on the Government lands in the park is prohibited.

11. Miscellaneous.--Possession, sale, transportation, or manufacture of liquor in the park is prohibited.

12. Fines and penalties.--Persons who render themselves obnoxious by disorderly conduct or bad behavior shall be subjected to the punishment hereinafter prescribed for violation of the foregoing regulations, or they may be summarily removed from the park by the superintendent.

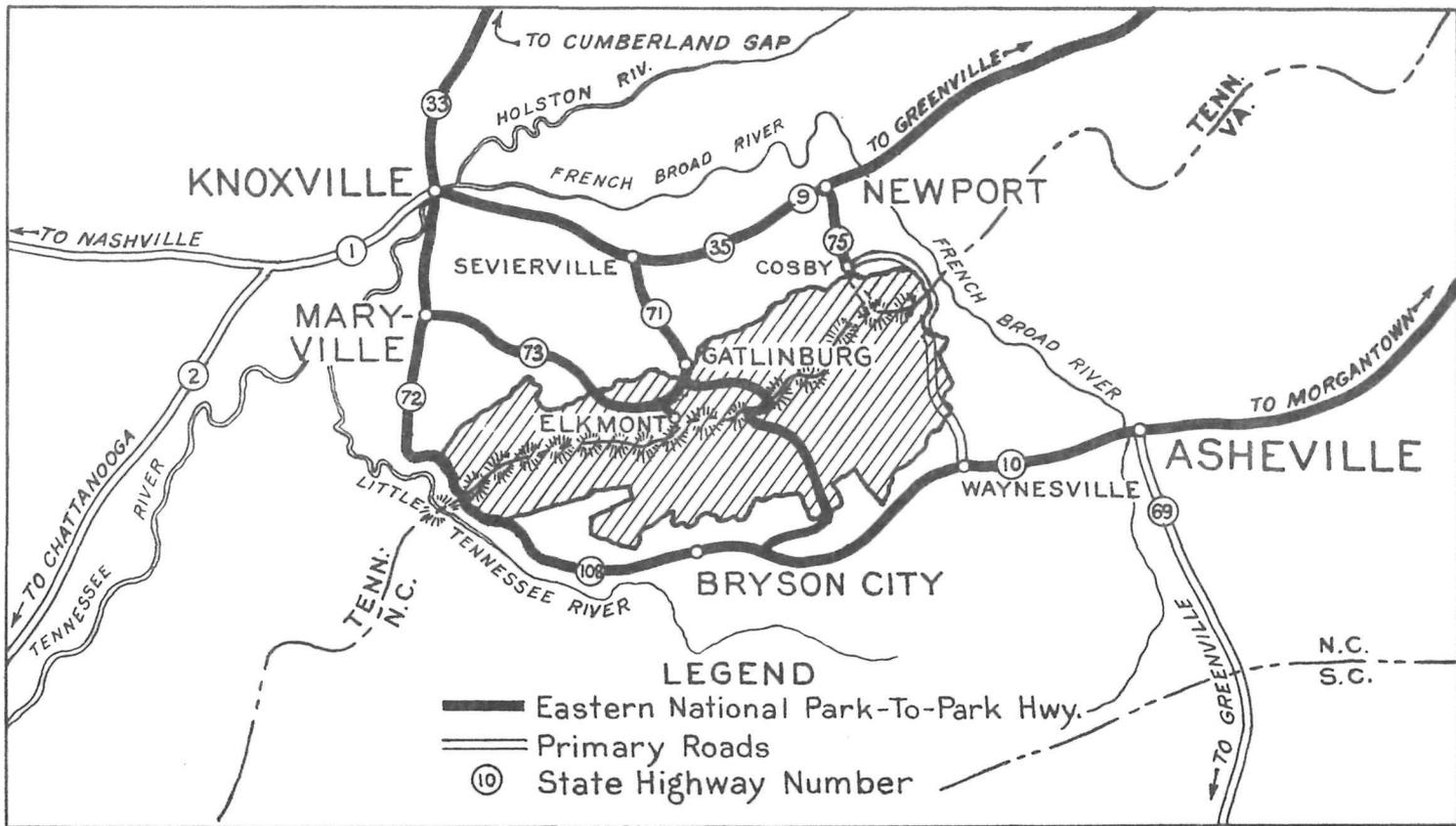
THE LAWS PROVIDE THAT ANY PERSON WHO VIOLATES ANY OF THE FOREGOING REGULATIONS SHALL BE DEEMED GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR, AND SHALL BE SUBJECT TO A FINE OF NOT MORE THAN \$500 OR IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING SIX MONTHS, OR BOTH, AND BE ADJUDGED TO PAY ALL COSTS OF THE PROCEEDINGS.

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1/ A partial list of the works contained in the bibliography for the Great Smokies compiled by Robert Lindsay Mason and Myron H. Avery.

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GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK AREA AND IMMEDIATE VICINITY

