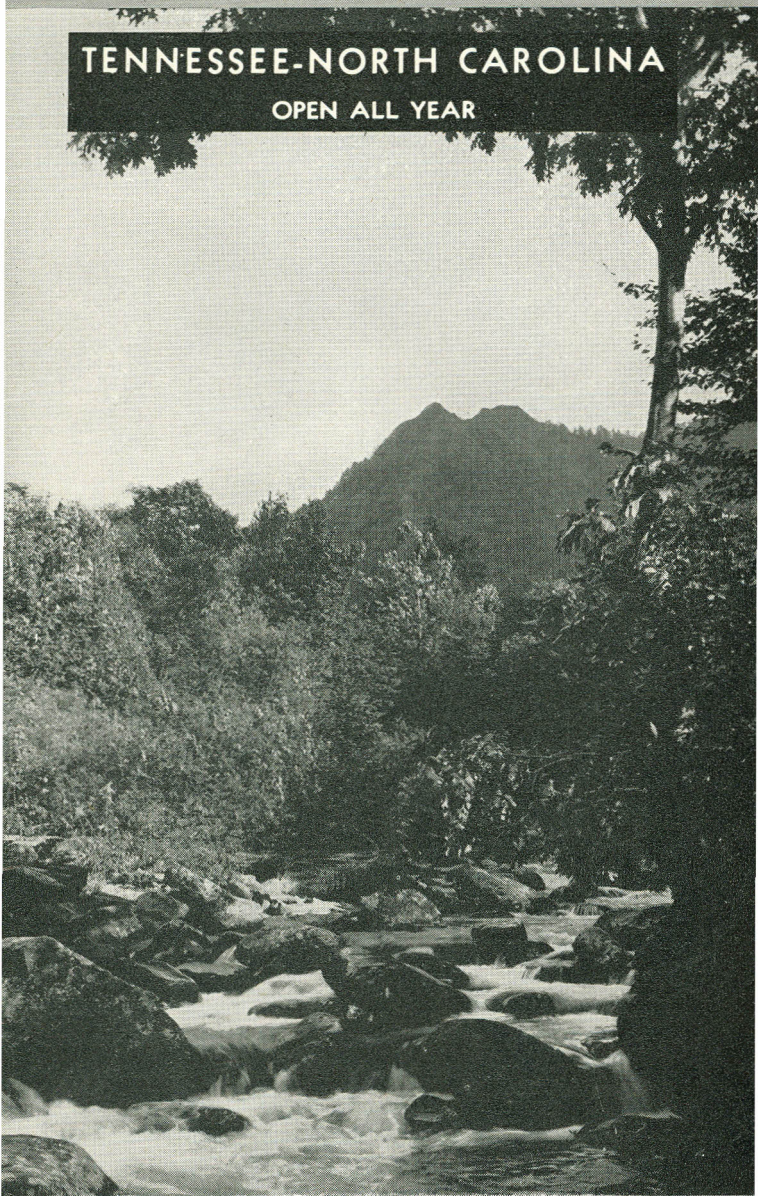


Great Smoky Mountains

NATIONAL PARK

TENNESSEE-NORTH CAROLINA

OPEN ALL YEAR



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE
INTERIOR • Oscar L. Chapman, *Secretary*
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE • Newton B. Drury, *Director*

Great Smoky Mountains NATIONAL PARK

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK is located on the crest of the high divide which forms the boundary between the States of Tennessee and North Carolina. This range, the Great Smoky Mountains, representing one of the oldest uplands on earth, zigzags through the park from northeast to southwest for a distance of 71 miles, or 54 miles by air line. For 36 miles along its main crest this range maintains an altitude in excess of 5,000 feet. Sixteen of its peaks rise more than 6,000 feet. The deep blue haze rising from the valleys to the summits of the lofty peaks gives these mountains their name.

Renowned for its splendid forests and containing a rich variety of plant life, the Great Smokies region has long been regarded by prominent botanists as the cradle of the present vegetation of eastern America.

Arnold Guyot, eminent scientist whose exploration of the Appalachian System began a century ago, was the first to describe the Great Smoky Mountains from personal observation. He wrote:

"Although the high peaks of the Smoky mountains are some fifty feet lower than the isolated and almost exceptional group of the Black mountains, by their number,

their magnitude, the continuity and general elevation of the chains, and of the base upon which they repose, they are like a massive and high citadel which is really the culminating region of all the Appalachian System."

Great Smoky Mountains National Park is one of the units of the National Park System owned by the people of the United States. The superlative scenic, historic, and scientific areas comprising this system are administered by the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior which is obligated by law to preserve them unimpaired for the benefit of this and future generations.

History of the Park

Prior to the start of the twentieth century, the area now comprising the park was little known to the outside world, although DeSoto is believed to have viewed the mountains. They were, and still are, the home of the Cherokees who now occupy the Cherokee Indian Reservation in North Carolina, adjacent to the park on the south. The few white settlers were the rugged mountaineer descendants of colonists from England and Scotland who lived isolated and primitive lives. The Great Smokies region became better known during and subsequent to World War I when lumber company logging railroads penetrated some of its virgin forests. Still later, highways skirted the area and visitors from other lands were able to view its majestic peaks from a distance.

The successful movement for the creation of a national park in this area was begun in 1923, and its establish-



Spectacular view from Heintooga Overlook.

ment was authorized by the Federal Government by act of Congress approved May 22, 1926. Enabling acts were passed by the State legislatures of North Carolina and Tennessee in 1927, and land acquisition was begun with State funds, matched by a generous donation made by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., through the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial, in honor of his mother. Subsequently, Federal funds were made available for the completion of the project.

On February 6, 1930, the Governors of North Carolina and Tennessee presented the Secretary of the Interior with deeds to an initial 158,876 acres of land on behalf of their respective States. A limited park was thus established for administration and protection. The park, now containing approximately 505,000 acres of federally owned land, was formally dedicated on September 2, 1940, by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.



THOMPSON PHOTO

Beautiful rhododendron along the trail to Mount Le Conte.

Pioneer Culture in the Great Smokies

Great Smoky Mountains National Park presents an opportunity to preserve frontier conditions of a century ago. The cultural and human interest aspects of this park are exceeded only by its scenery and natural history.

In places where the forest has not yet encroached upon them there are clearings which were the sloping little farms of the mountain pioneers. Sturdy log structures in varying stages of disintegration remain there as evidence of a way of life which has practically disappeared in eastern United States. Some of these log cabins have been repaired so that park visitors may see a forest home in its true setting. A few mills, utilizing the power of rushing, rock-strewn streams, have been restored. Hand-made household objects, tools, and such other items as were required by these hardy people have been collected and preserved. Many of them are on display in a temporary Pioneer Museum located in the Oconaluftee Ranger Station, 1 mile north of the Cherokee Indian Reservation. This building is open to the public from 8.30 a. m. to 5 p. m., April 1 to October 31.

Cherokee Indian Reservation

Visitors will be interested in the Cherokee Indians on the Cherokee Reservation, which is immediately south of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Although the Government has instituted here a comprehensive system of education and modern methods of living, ancient ceremonies and sports are preserved as tribal customs. The Indians still play the Cherokee game of ball, one of the world's most strenuous sports. Many are expert in archery and in the use of the blowgun. In 1838 most of the Cherokees were removed to Oklahoma, but hundreds escaped to the fastnesses of the Great Smoky Mountains. The Cherokees on the Cherokee Reservation are descendants of those who hid in the mountains.

Forests

Crowning the highest peaks with spruce and fir and carpeting the mountainsides with a wealth of deciduous trees there is an unbroken forest cover, the like of which cannot be matched in eastern America. In all of Europe there are not as many species of native trees as are to be found in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. A number of these, such as Canada hemlock, silverbell, red spruce, yellow buckeye, mountainash, and others, grow to record size, while still others become giants of their kind. Approximately 40 percent of the nearly half-million acres which comprise the park are in the original forested condition. A total of 130 native tree species are known to occur in this area.

The Plant Life

Few, if any, areas in the eastern United States possess so great a variety of plants. Altogether, the tree, shrub, and herb varieties total more than 1,300. Botanists have also listed over 1,700 species of fungi, 330 mosses and liverworts, and 230 lichens. The earliest flowers occasionally appear by the close of February in lowland areas, while the witchhazel, latest to bloom, may hold its blossoms into December. Late April finds the spring flowers, including the abundant dogwood, at their blossoming peak; May is best for the mountainlaurel; middle June usually finds both the flame azalea and rose-purple rhododendron at their finest; middle July is likely to be the peak of the great white rhododendron's flowering. Autumn colors are excellent throughout October, with the height of coloration near the end of the month.

A Wildlife Sanctuary

Here, as in all national parks, wildlife is given complete protection. No hunting or trapping is permitted. Since establishment of the park the black bear popula-

tion has increased considerably, and such animals as the white-tailed deer, red and gray foxes, raccoon, bobcat, wild turkey, ruffed grouse, and others find sanctuary in these mountains. More than 52 species of fur-bearing animals, some 200 birds, 36 reptiles, 37 amphibians, and 80 fishes are known to occur here.

The feeding, touching, teasing, or molesting of bears is prohibited. This regulation is enforced strictly for the protection of the public. Persons using park trails have nothing to fear from unmolested bears. If tempted by food, however, some bears, which frequent sections of the motor road, become dangerous. They should not be fed or approached. Persons using the Appalachian Trail shelters can protect their food supplies by suspending them from tree limbs outside the shelter.

Fishing

Approximately 600 miles of streams, many of them well suited to trout, flow down the slopes of the Great Smoky Mountains. Each year thousands of hatchery-reared trout are released in the more heavily fished waters. Rainbow and brook trout and small-mouth bass lure the devotees of Izaak Walton. The Federal Government makes no charge for a fishing license, but persons fishing in park waters must have the State or county license issued and required by North Carolina, or the State license issued and required by Tennessee, depending upon the section of the park being fished. Catches are regulated, and some streams may be found closed for restocking. The fishing season is from May 16 to August 31. Current regulations may be obtained from the office of the superintendent or from rangers or wardens.

Interpretive Service

Beginning in June and continuing for a period of 5 months, a program of naturalist-guided field trips and talks is available. This service is maintained by the Government and is free to the public.

Naturalists meet hikers at designated points in or near the park and conduct visits to outstanding objectives over good trails. Plant and animal life is discussed informally along the way. There are several types of walks ranging from 2 hours to all day. Illustrated talks

Memorial Plaque

The founders of Great Smoky Mountains National Park are honored with a memorial at Newfound Gap, on the North Carolina-Tennessee line. A bronze plaque on a high terrace wall of the memorial bears the following inscription:

"FOR THE PERMANENT ENJOYMENT OF THE PEOPLE - This Park Was Given One-half By The Peoples And States of North Carolina And Tennessee And By The United States of America And One-Half In Memory of Laura Spelman Rockefeller By The Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial Founded By Her Husband John D. Rockefeller."

are given in the evenings at regular intervals, chiefly in hotel lobbies and other points of visitor-concentration.

Mimeographed programs describing the nature-guide service are available (June-October) at headquarters and at Oconaluftee Ranger Station, and are posted in hotels and various places throughout the park.

Accommodations

Free modern campgrounds are provided on the Tennessee side of the park at the Chimneys, 6 miles south of Gatlinburg, and on the North Carolina side at Smoke-mont, on the transmountain highway. In addition to these campgrounds, the only accommodations in the park are Le Conte Lodge on the top of Mount Le Conte, accessible only by foot or horseback, and Wonderland Hotel, Elkmont, Tenn. These are operated under lease or permit from the National Park Service. Rates range from \$3 a day for one person at the lodge, in a cabin without bath or running water, to \$7 a day for a double room, with bath, at the hotel. Meals are moderately priced.

At Fontana Village, a Tennessee Valley Authority recreational center at Fontana Dam, N. C., adjacent to the park, are comfortable accommodations, with rates ranging from \$5 a day for two persons in trailer cabins to \$14 a day for four persons in a 3-bedroom cottage. Groceries and other supplies may be purchased at the trading center in the Village, where there is also a modern cafeteria. Reservations should be addressed to Government Services, Inc., Fontana Village, Welch Cove, N. C.

A number of hotel and tourist camp facilities are available in cities and towns near the park, and at Knoxville and Asheville. Requests regarding those accom-



THOMPSON PHOTO

Newfound Gap, highest point on the transmountain highway.

modations should be addressed to Knoxville Tourist Bureau, Henley Street, Knoxville, Tenn.; East Tennessee Automobile Club, Knoxville, Tenn.; Chambers of Commerce of Gatlinburg, Tenn., Asheville, Waynesville, Bryson City, and Sylva, N. C.; and Cherokee Association, Cherokee, N. C.

Administration

Park headquarters is located 2 miles south of Gatlinburg, Tenn. An assistant chief ranger maintains headquarters at Oconaluftee Ranger Station, N. C., on State Highway No. 107; post office, Cherokee, N. C. Communications relating to the park should be addressed to the Superintendent, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Gatlinburg, Tenn.

Rules and Regulations

[Briefed]

Park regulations are designed "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." Please help the National Park Service in its duty of enforcing park regulations by abiding by the rules.

The park is a sanctuary for all living things. It is a violation of the law to destroy, injure, or disturb trees, shrubs, flowers, birds, animals, or any natural feature in the park.

The speed limit is 45 miles an hour on highways; 20 miles an hour on secondary roads. Drive carefully; keep to the right. Report all accidents to a ranger.

Camping or lighting of fires at places other than designated camp or picnic grounds is not allowed, except by permit. Persons desiring to camp in remote sections of the park may secure permits at the office of the superintendent, the Oconaluftee Ranger Station, or from the district rangers or wardens. Such permits will be issued upon application, except during periods of high fire hazard. Camping is restricted to certain periods at the campgrounds. Individual sites provided with fireplaces and water are available.

Please help to keep the park clean. Do not scatter papers, picnic remnants and the like; throw all trash into receptacles along roads, in picnic areas, and campgrounds.

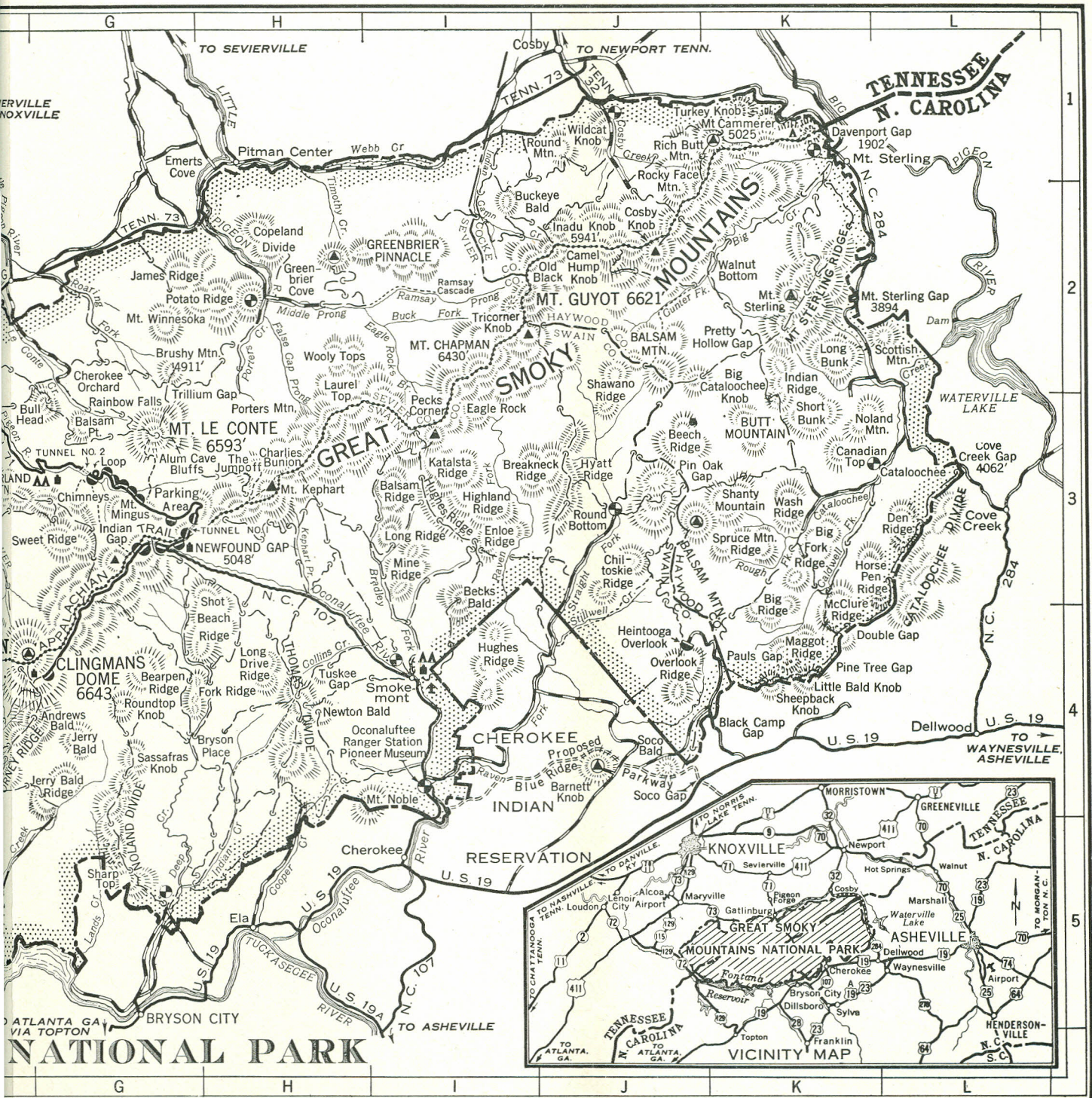
Fire is one of the greatest dangers to the park. Put out fires completely upon leaving. Be sure cigarettes and matches are out before disposal. Lunches may be eaten along roadsides, but fires should not be built.

Only those persons having special permits may collect botanical, zoological, or geological specimens in the park. Such permits may be secured by competent scientists upon application to the superintendent.

Dogs and cats are not permitted in the park unless on leash, crated, or otherwise under physical restrictive control at all times.

The feeding, touching, teasing, or molesting of bears is prohibited.

Deliberate infraction of park regulations may bring penalty of fine or imprisonment or both.



ROAD DISTANCES

To—	From—			Remarks	Map index
	Garlinburg entrance	Cherokee entrance	Elevation		
	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Feet</i>		
Park Headquarters	1.5	28.3	1,463	Office of superintendent	F-2.
Oconaluftee Ranger Station	27.9	1.9	2,025	Office of assistant chief ranger	I-4.
Chimneys Campground	6.5	23.6	2,750	In Tennessee section on transmountain highway	G-3.
Smokemont Campground	24.6	5.2	2,198	In North Carolina section on transmountain highway	I-4.
Chimneys Foot Bridge	8.7	21.1	3,550	Parking area above lower tunnel	G-3.
Alum Cave Parking Area	10.5	19.3	3,850	Start of trail to Arch Rock, Alum Cave Bluffs, and Mount Le Conte.	G-3.
Cherokee Orchard	4.7	35.5	2,550	Start of trails to Mount Le Conte and Rainbow Falls	G-2.
Newfound Gap	15.0	14.8	5,048	Highest point on transmountain highway. Start of Clingmans Dome Highway, trail to Mount Le Conte and points east on Appalachian Trail.	G-3.
Indian Gap	16.3	16.1	5,266	Historic pass through Smokies used by Indians, early settlers, and armies during War between the States.	G-3.
Forney Ridge Parking Area	22.5	22.3	6,311	Highest point on highest highway in East. Start of trail to Clingmans Dome Tower, Andrews Bald, and points west along Appalachian Trail.	G-4.
Fighting Creek Gap	4.6	31.4	2,320	Start of trail to Laurel Falls and Cove Mountain fire tower	F-2.
Cherokee Indian Reservation	31.3	1.5	1,900	Cherokee tribal customs preserved here	I-5.
Little River Gorge	5.75	32.5	2,000	View of Mount Le Conte from Inspiration Point, drive down scenic Little River Gorge to Townsend and return.	E-2 & D-2.
Cades Cove	36.0	73.0	to 1,100 1,807	Extensive level area surrounded by towering mountains. Road is tortuous. Unsurpassed views from nearby peaks.	C-3.
Tremont "Y"	18.2	45.0	1,147	One-half day drive	D-3.
Greenbrier	13.0	43.0	1,680	Beautiful streams flowing through virgin forests are within short hiking distance.	H-2.
Cosby	25.1	52.0	2,459	One-half day drive	J-1.
Cataloochee	50.4	60.5	2,643	One day drive	K-3.
Loop trip around western end of park.	200	200	One-day drive. Route follows Gatlinburg to park headquarters, to Elkmont, Townsend, Maryville, Tapoco, Tipton, Bryson City, Cherokee, Gatlinburg. The most popular one-day drive.	

The Seasons

Summer days are usually warm or hot in the lowland areas and cool in the higher mountains; the nights are cool. By retreating to the mountains one may invariably find relief from the heat.

Spring arrives early in the lowland areas and progressively later at higher elevations. Weather conditions are particularly favorable in autumn, with less rainfall at that season. Winters are variable, both as to severity and length, but they normally are mild in the lowlands.

Rain, snow, and fog often are encountered in the mountains during the winter. Roads are kept open all year, but the transmountain highway sometimes is closed for a few hours during heavy snow or sleet storms when snowplows cannot keep it open. Snows are infrequent in the park, but persons planning to drive through in winter should take chains. Roads are posted if driving conditions are unfavorable.

How To Reach the Park

Paved highways from all States converge at Knoxville, Tenn., and Asheville, N. C. Bus lines maintain service to both cities. The Southern Railway and the Louisville & Nashville Railroad serve Knoxville; the former also serves Asheville. Knoxville may also be reached by American, Capital (PCA), and Delta Airlines; Asheville, by Capital (PCA), Delta, and Piedmont Airlines. Buses make seven trips each way, daily, between Knoxville and Asheville, going through the park via Gatlinburg and Cherokee. North Carolina towns bordering the park may be reached by direct buses from Atlanta and Chattanooga. Excursions by bus also may be made from Knoxville, stopping overnight at Gatlinburg and continuing to Knoxville via Maryville, Tenn. Smoky Mountain Tours, Inc., with offices in both Knoxville and Asheville, operate personally conducted sightseeing stages through the park between the two cities frequently during the summer months. The Southern Railway offers both one-way and round-trip tickets, providing travel by stage through the park between Knoxville and Asheville.

TRAIL DISTANCES

Name	Trail starts	Elevation	Distance round trip	Remarks	Map index
		<i>Feet</i>	<i>Miles</i>		
Laurel Falls Trail.....	Fighting Creek Gap (see road distances).	2,500	2.5	One of the most popular hiking trips.....	E-2.
Clingmans Dome Tower.....	Forney Ridge parking area...	6,643	1.0	One-half mile paved trail leads to one of the highest peaks in East. Excellent panorama.	G-4.
Andrews Bald.....	Forney Ridge parking area...	5,860	4.0	One of the most popular hikes in park.....	G-4.
Alum Cave Bluffs.....	Alum Cave parking area (see road distances).	4,900	5.0	Easy trail, fine views. Best for rose-purple rhododendron in mid-June. Alum Cave Bluffs.	G-3.
Mount Le Conte: via Alum Cave Bluffs.	Alum Cave parking area (see road distances).	6,593	10.4	Shortest way to Mount Le Conte and very spectacular. Foot trail only.	G-3.
via Boulevard.....	Newfound Gap (see road distances).	6,593	16.0	Follows Appalachian Trail to Mount Kephart and thence along Boulevard Trail to Le Conte.	G-3.
via Cherokee Orchard.....	Cherokee Orchard via Rainbow Falls.	6,593	13.4	Trail passes Rainbow Falls and around Rocky Spur.	G-3.
	Cherokee Orchard via Bullhead.	6,593	14.4	Trail passes around Bullhead.....	G-3.
	Cherokee Orchard via Trillium Gap.	6,593	16.8	Good horse trail.....	G-3.
via Roaring Fork.....	Gatlinburg and Trillium Gap.	6,593	22.4	Longest trip, but very interesting.....	G-3.
The Jumpoff.....	Newfound Gap.....	6,100	6.5	Jagged mountain peaks.....	H-3.
Charles Bunion.....	Newfound Gap.....	5,375	8.6	Reminiscent of the rugged Rockies.....	H-3.
Gregorys Bald.....	Cades Cove.....	4,948	11.0	Best display of wild azalea in mid-June.....	B-4.
Chimney Tops.....	Chimneys Bridge (see road distances).	4,755	3.0	For the experienced hiker. 3 hours, round trip....	G-3.
Appalachian Trail: Eastern Half.	Davenport Gap or Newfound Gap.	One Way	31.0	Trail commences at Davenport Gap and follows through 31 miles of absolute wilderness. Trailside shelters are spaced for one-day hikes.	K-1, J-2, I-2, I-3, H-3, G-3.
Western Half.....	Newfound Gap (or drive the 7.5 miles along highway and start at Forney Ridge Parking Area) or Deals Gap.	One Way	40.0	A continuation of the above. The most popular wilderness hikes in the park, following the ridge of the Smokies for 71 miles. Trail is mostly over 5,000 feet in elevation.	G-3, G-4, F-4, E-4, D-4, C-4, B-4, B-5, A-5.
Mount Cammerer.....	Davenport Gap.....	5,025	12.0	Fine view of valleys and mountains.....	K-1.
Ramsey Cascades.....	Greenbrier.....	4,750	12.0	Largest cascades; stands of virgin hardwoods.....	I-2.
Raven Fork Wilderness.....	Smokemont.....	4,202	16.0	Largest stand of virgin red spruce and balsam.....	J-3.
Mount Sterling Tower.....	Mount Sterling Gap.....	5,835	5.2	Accessible fire tower.....	K-2.
Sharp Top on Noland Divide..	Bryson City (at park line)....	3,430	4.0	Interesting hike.....	G-5.
Bryson Place.....	Bryson City.....	2,411	20.0	Follows Deep Creek to Bryson Place, and Nettle Creek into the fine stand of virgin hardwoods.	H-4.

Roads and Trails

There are 66 miles of high standard roads in the park including the transmountain highway from Gatlinburg, Tenn., to Cherokee, N. C. Clingmans Dome Highway reaches an altitude of 6,311 feet, the highest highway in the East. Seventy miles of secondary roads and 653 miles of horse and foot trails are open to the public for hiking and riding.

The park highways offer exceptional opportunities to view the grandeur of the Great Smokies. The transpark highway crosses the mountain range, and spur roads and trails lead to many points of interest.

There are trails of all types to suit the individual requirements of park visitors. Some are 4 feet wide on easy gradients; some are improved footpaths; others merely a track through the forest. All improved trails are marked with directional signs. Hikers using graded trails need not wear any special hiking clothes, since well-traveled trails are maintained clear of brush and are drained. However, stout low-heeled shoes are recommended.

Trailside Shelters and Campsites

There are eight trailside shelters and three trailside campsites along the 71-mile section of the Appalachian Trail in this park from Davenport Gap to Newfound Gap (31 miles) and Newfound Gap to Fontana Dam (40 miles). These are nearly equally spaced for 1-day hiking trips. Shelters are closed on three sides and provide simple bunk accommodations for six persons. A fireplace is in front and water is available nearby. No shelter is provided at the three campsites. Use of the shelters is normally restricted to one night. Camping is permitted along the trail only at the above points and a camping permit for each trip is required. (See Rules and Regulations.) Because of the scarcity of fuel at these sites, hikers are advised to carry primus type stoves.

Horses, Pack Animals, and Guide Service

Horses and pack animals can be rented by the hour, day, or for longer periods in some of the towns bordering the park. Guide service is also available in these towns.