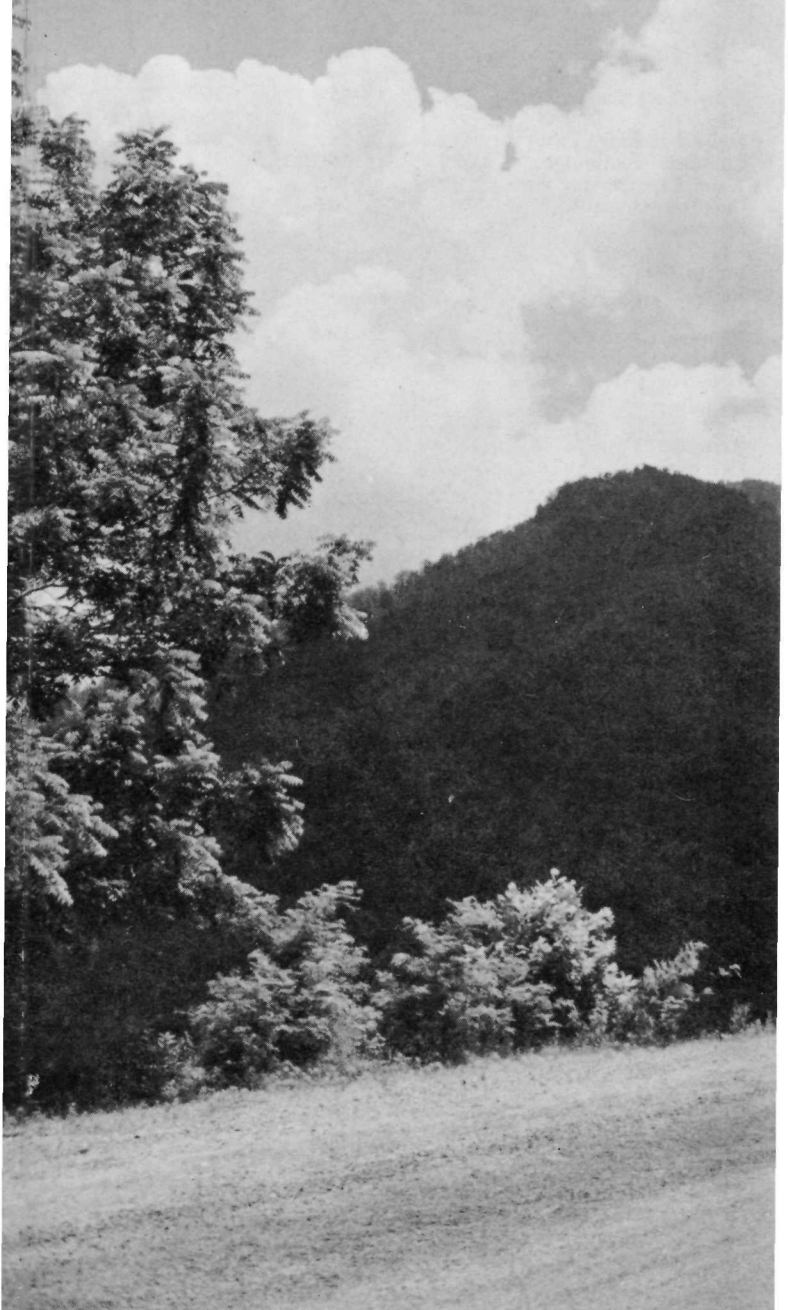


Great Smoky Mountains

NATIONAL PARK



TENNESSEE-NORTH CAROLINA

OPEN ALL YEAR

Great Smoky Mountains

NATIONAL PARK

The National Park System, of which this park is a unit, is dedicated to conserving the scenic, scientific, and historic heritage of the United States for the benefit and enjoyment of its people.

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK is on the crest of the high divide which forms the boundary between Tennessee and North Carolina. This mountain range, representing one of the oldest uplands on earth, zigzags through the park from northeast to southwest for 71 miles, or 54 miles by air line. For 36 miles along its main crest the range maintains an altitude in excess of 5,000 feet; 16 of its peaks rise to more than 6,000 feet. The deep-blue haze rising from the valleys to the summits of the lofty peaks gives these mountains the name Great Smoky.

Renowned for its splendid forests and containing a rich



View from Heintooga Overlook.

variety of plant life, the Great Smoky 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."

History of the Park

Prior to the start of the 20th century, the area now comprising the park was little known to the outside world, although De Soto 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 logging railroads penetrated some of its virgin forests. Still later, highways skirted the area so visitors were better able to view its majestic peaks.

The successful movement for the establishment of a national park in this area was begun in 1923, and the park was authorized by act of Congress in 1926. Enabling acts were passed by the State legislatures of North Carolina and Tennessee in 1927. 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 was formally dedicated on September 2, 1940. It now covers nearly 800 square miles.

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, barns, and other buildings have been rehabilitated so that you may see the original structures in their true setting. Most of them are in Cades Cove where the park's only grist mill powered by an overshot water wheel is located. Cades Cove, an isolated oval-shaped valley, is a region of outstanding pastoral charm which you should visit.

Some of the finest types of authentic pioneer structures have been assembled in the immediate vicinity of the Oconaluftee Ranger Station and Pioneer Museum, located on the cross-mountain highway about 2 miles north of Cherokee, N. C. On display in the museum are tools, household objects, and a variety of other handmade items which were used by the pioneers who made their homes on lands now within the park. This building is open from 9 a. m. to 5 p. m., April through October.

The Cherokee Indian Reservation

You will be interested in the Cherokee Indians on the Cherokee 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 preserved as tribal customs.



Rhododendron along the trail to Mount Le Conte.

Forests

An unbroken forest cover crowns the highest peaks with spruce and fir, and carpets the mountainsides with a wealth of deciduous trees. This forest cannot be matched in eastern America. A total of 130 native tree species are known to grow in this area. There are almost as many species of native trees in Great Smoky Mountains National Park as there are in all of Europe. A number of species such as Canada hemlock, silverbell, red spruce, yellow buckeye, serviceberry, and mountain-ash grow to record size; others are also giants of their kind. Approximately 40 percent of the park, or about 200,000 acres, is in the original forest.

Flowering Plants and Other Plant Life

Few, if any, areas in the eastern United States possess so large a variety of plants. Altogether, the tree, shrub, and herb varieties total more than 1,300. Botanists have also listed over 1,800 species of fungi, 330 mosses and liverworts, and 230 lichens. The earliest flowers may appear by the end of February and the latest, witchhazel, may hold its blossoms into December. The peaks of flowering, in normal years, of the more showy plants are listed below:

Plants	Peak of flowering
Dogwood	Late April
Spring flowers	Late April
Mountain laurel	All during May
Flame azalea	Mid-June
Rose-purple rhododendron	Mid-June
White rhododendron	Mid-July

Wildlife

Since establishment of the park, black bear, white-tailed deer, red and gray foxes, raccoon, bobcat, wild turkey, ruffed grouse, and others have found sanctuary in these mountains. More than 52 species of fur-bearing animals, some 200 species of birds, 26 of reptiles, 37 of amphibians, and 80 of fishes are known to live here.

Black bears have increased considerably. If tempted by food, some of them that frequent the roads become dangerous. Persons using the park trails need have no fear of bears if the animals are unmolested. Persons using the Appalachian Trail shelters can protect their food supplies by suspending them from tree limbs.

Wild Animals

It is dangerous for you to get near wild animals even though they may appear to be tame. Some have become accustomed to humans, but they are still wild and may seriously injure you if you approach them. Regulations prohibiting feeding, teasing, touching, or molesting wild animals are enforced for your own safety.

Fishing

The park has about 600 miles of streams, many of them well suited to trout. Each year thousands of hatchery-reared trout are released in the more heavily fished waters. The park streams also have small-mouthed bass. Those who wish to fish 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 closed for natural reproduction. The fishing season is from May 16 to August 31. Current regulations may be obtained from the office of the superintendent or from park rangers or wardens.

Interpretive Service

Beginning in May and continuing for 6 months, a program of naturalist-guided field trips and talks is available. This is a free service maintained by the Government for your enjoyment.

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 trips ranging from short walks to all-day hikes. Illustrated talks are given in the evenings several times each week, chiefly in hotel lobbies and other points of visitor concentration.

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

Accommodations

Free campgrounds, modern but without electricity, are provided on the Tennessee side of the park at the Chimney Tops, 6 miles south of Gatlinburg, at Cosby, 22 miles east of Gatlinburg, and in Cades Cove, 8 miles from Townsend; on the North Carolina side at Smokemont, on the trans-mountain highway, at Balsam Mountain, 10 miles from Soco Gap on U. S. 19 (Blue Ridge Parkway spur), and at Deep Creek, 2 miles from Bryson City. Other accommodations in the park are at Le Conte Lodge on the top of Mount Le Conte, accessible only by foot or horseback. For reservations and rates, write Jack Huff, Gatlinburg, Tenn.

A number of hotels and tourist courts are available in cities and towns near the park, and at Knoxville and Asheville. Inquiries regarding these accommodations should be addressed to Knoxville Tourist Bureau, Henley Street, Knoxville, Tenn.; East Tennessee Automobile Club, Knoxville, Tenn.; Chambers of Commerce of Gatlinburg, Knoxville, and Maryville, Tenn., Asheville, Waynesville, Bryson City, and Sylva, N. C.; Cherokee Association, Cherokee, N. C.; and Government Services, Inc., Fontana Village, Fontana Dam, N. C.

Administration

Great Smoky Mountains National Park is administered by the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Gatlinburg, Tenn., is in immediate charge. Park headquarters are located 2 miles south of Gatlinburg. A member of the protection division maintains headquarters at Oconaluftee Ranger Station, N. C., on U. S. 441; post office, Cherokee, N. C.



The "Chimneys", famous landmark and starting point for popular hikes.

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."

Help Us Protect This Park

Please note the following regulations which are made for the protection of the park, as well as for your comfort and convenience:

The park is a sanctuary for all living things. It is a violation of the law to destroy, injure, or disturb any form of animal or plant life, or any other natural feature of the park. No hunting or trapping is permitted.

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

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

The speed limit is 35 miles an hour, unless otherwise posted. Drive carefully; keep to the right. Report all accidents to a park ranger.

Camping or lighting fires at places other than designated campgrounds or picnic areas is not allowed, except by permit. Individual sites provided with fireplaces and water are available. Except during periods of high fire hazard, permission to camp in remote sections of the park may be obtained from the office of the superintendent, the Oconaluftee Ranger Station, or from the district park rangers or wardens. Camping is also restricted to certain periods at the campgrounds.

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

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

Dogs and cats are permitted in the park if on leash, crated, or otherwise under physical restrictive control at all times.

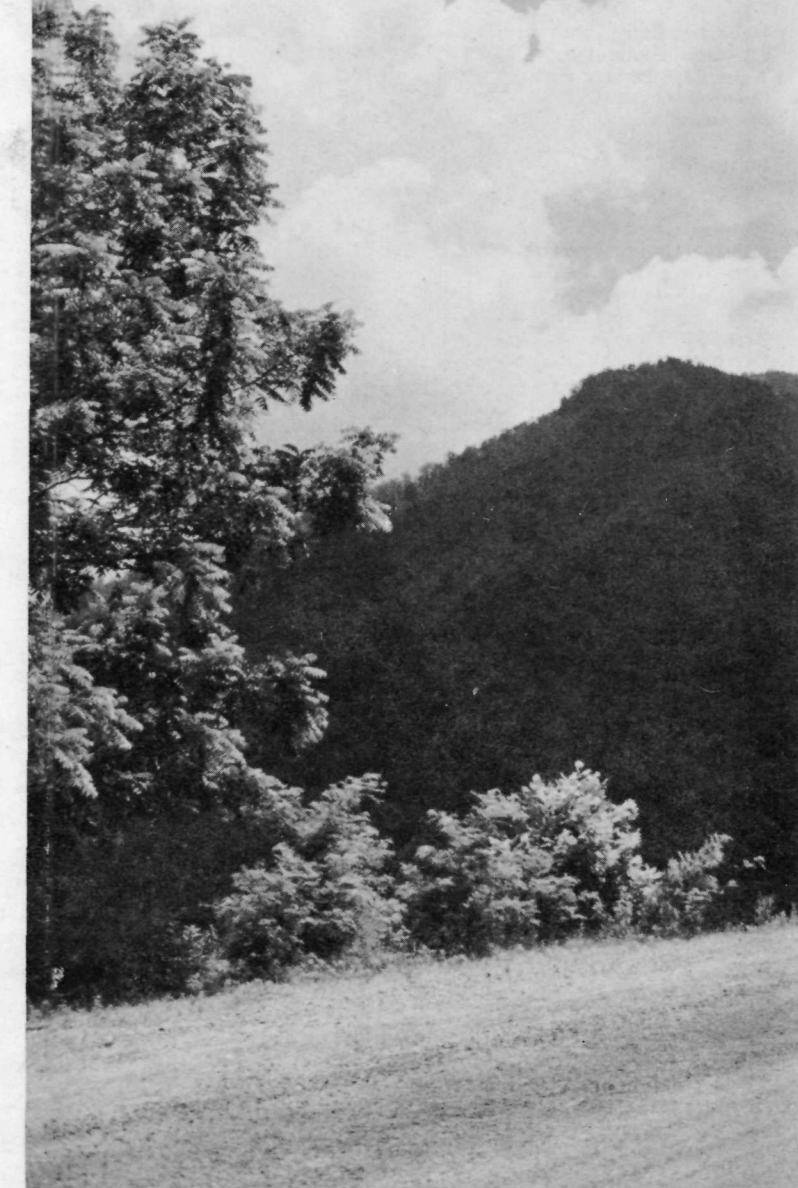
Deliberate infraction of park regulations may bring penalty of fine or imprisonment or both.



United States Department of the Interior
Fred A. Seaton, Secretary

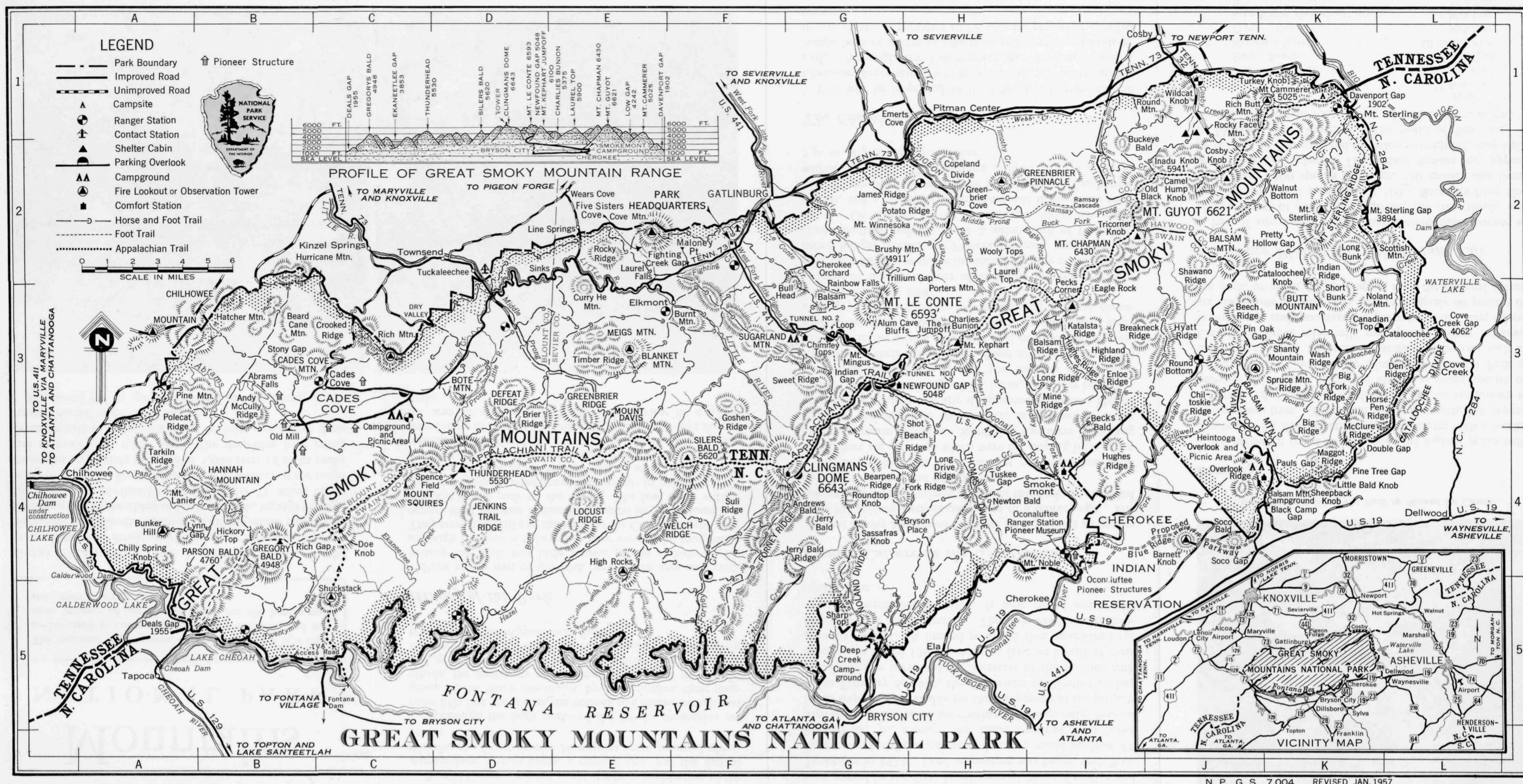
National Park Service
Conrad L. Wirth, Director

Great Smoky Mountains NATIONAL PARK



TENNESSEE-NORTH CAROLINA

OPEN ALL YEAR



N. P. G. S. 7,004 REVISED JAN. 1957

*Completely Extinguish Matches and Cigarettes Before Throwing Away. Be Sure
Campfire Is Out Before Leaving It.
Always Use Car Ashtrays. Let's Not Be Guilty of Starting a Forest Fire.*

ROAD DISTANCES

TRAIL DISTANCES

To—	From—			Elevation Feet	Remarks	Map Index
	Gatlinburg entrance	Cherokee entrance	Townsend entrance			
	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Miles</i>			
Park Headquarters.....	1.5	28.3	18.5	1,463	Office of superintendent.....	F-2.
Pioneer Museum and Oconaluftee Ranger Station.....	27.9	1.9	45.9	2,025	Museum; park office, North Carolina section.....	I-4.
Chimneys Campground.....	6.5	23.6	23.5	2,750	In Tennessee section on U. S. 441.....	G-3.
Smokemont Campground.....	24.6	5.2	41.5	2,198	In North Carolina section on U. S. 441.....	I-4.
Balsam Mountain Campground.....	53.3	23.5	71.3	5,340	In North Carolina section; 11.3 miles north of U. S. 19.	J-4.
Cades Cove Campground.....	26.0	63.0	7.7	1,960	In Tennessee section; 7 miles south of Tennessee Route 73.	C-3.
Deep Creek Campground.....	45.8	16.0	63.8	1,800	In North Carolina section; 2.1 miles north of U. S. 19.	G-5.
Heintooga Ridge Picnic Area.....	53.8	24.0	71.8	5,325	Excellent mountain vistas.....	J-4.
Chimneys Footbridge.....	8.7	21.1	25.7	3,550	At parking area above lower tunnel.....	G-3.
Alum Cave Parking Area.....	10.5	19.3	27.5	3,850	Trail to Alum Cave Bluffs and Mount Le Conte.....	G-3.
Cherokee Orchard.....	4.7	35.5	24.7	2,550	Trails to Mount Le Conte and Rainbow Falls.....	G-2.
Newfound Gap.....	15.0	14.8	42.0	5,048	Where U. S. 441 crosses Smokies, Appalachian Trail, and Clingmans Dome Highway.	G-3.
Indian Gap.....	16.3	16.1	43.3	5,266	Historic pass through Smokies.....	G-3.
Forney Ridge Parking Area.....	22.5	22.3	49.5	6,311	Clingmans Dome Trail.....	G-4.
Fighting Creek Gap.....	4.6	31.4	15.4	2,320	Trail to Laurel Falls and Cove Mountain.....	F-2.
Cherokee Indian Reservation.....	31.3	1.5	48.5	1,900	Eastern band of Cherokee Indians.....	I-5.
Little River Gorge.....	5.8	32.5	1.0	2,000	Scenic drive.....	E-2 and D-2.
Cades Cove.....	26.0	63.0	7.7	1,807	Extensive level area surrounded by mountains.....	C-3.
Tremont "Y".....	18.2	45.0	.7	1,147	Junction of Cades Cove and Little River Roads.....	D-3.
Greenbrier.....	11.0	43.0	31.0	1,680	Trails into area of excellent forests and streams.....	H-2.
Cosby.....	23.1	52.0	43.1	2,459	Northeastern section of park, Tennessee side.....	J-1.
Cataloochee.....	50.4	60.5	70.4	2,643	Excellent scenic drive, eastern section of park.....	K-3.
Loop trip around western end of park.....	165.0	165.0	165.0		One-day drive, Gatlinburg to park headquarters, Elkmont, Townsend, Maryville, Tapoca, Bryson City, Cherokee, and Gatlinburg.	

Destination	Trail starts	Elevation Feet	Distance round trip Miles	Remarks	Map Index
Laurel Falls.....	Fighting Creek Gap (see Road Distances).	2,500	2.5	One of the most popular hiking trips.....	E-2.
Clingmans Dome Summit.....	Forney Ridge Parking Area..	6,643	1.0	One-half mile paved trail leads to one of the high- est peaks in the East; highest in park.....	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 rhod- odendron 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 spec- tacular. Foot trail only.....	G-3.
via Boulevard.....	Newfound Gap (see Road Dis- tances).	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 Rain- bow Falls.	6,593	13.4	Trail passes Rainbow Falls and around Rocky Spur.....	G-3.
	Cherokee Orchard via Bull- head.	6,593	14.4	Trail passes around Bullhead.....	G-3.
	Cherokee Orchard via Trill- ium Gap.	6,593	16.8	Good horse trail.....	G-3.
via Roaring Fork.....	Gatlinburg and Trillium Gap..	6,593	22.4	Longest trip to Mount Le Conte, but 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.
Gregory Bald.....	Cades Cove.....	4,948	11.0	Best display of wild azaleas 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.
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 a fine stand of virgin hardwoods.	H-4.

How To Reach the Park

Paved highways from neighboring States converge at Knoxville, Tenn., and Asheville, N. C. Buses 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. Trailways 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 during the summer.

The Seasons

Summer days are usually warm or hot in the lowland areas and cool in the higher mountains; the nights are cool. Spring arrives early in the lowland areas and progressively later at higher elevations. Weather conditions are particularly favorable for enjoyment of the park 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 are often encountered in the mountains during the winter. Roads are normally kept open all year, but the transmountain highway sometimes is closed for a few hours during heavy snow or sleet storms. Snows are infrequent in the park, but you should take chains if you plan to drive through in winter. Roads are posted if driving conditions are unfavorable.

Horses, Pack Animals, and Guide Service

In some of the towns bordering the park, horses and pack animals, with guide service, may be rented by the hour, day, or for longer periods.

Roads and Trails

There are 66 miles of high standard roads in the park. Clingmans Dome Highway reaches an altitude of 6,311 feet. Seventy miles of secondary roads and 653 miles of horse and foot trails are available.

The park highways offer exceptional opportunities to view the grandeur of the Great Smokies. Spur roads and trails lead to many points of interest and of great scenic beauty.

There are trails of all types to suit your individual requirements. Some are 4 feet wide on easy gradients; some are improved footpaths; still others are merely tracks through the forest. Park forces try to keep trails drained and clear of brush and other obstacles; but the country is rough, and hikers should wear suitable outdoor clothing, including stout low-heeled shoes.

The Appalachian Trail

The Appalachian Trail winds through the length of the park along most of the 71-mile ridge of the Smokies. The eastern part, from Davenport Gap at the northeast corner to Newfound Gap on the transmountain highway, passes through 31 miles of absolute wilderness. The part from Newfound Gap to Fontana Dam just outside the park, is 40 miles long. Most of the trail is over 5,000 feet in elevation.

There are 7 trailside shelters and 3 trailside campsites along the Appalachian Trail in this park. These are nearly equally spaced for 1-day hiking trips. The shelters are closed on 3 sides, each providing simple bunk accommodations for 6 persons. A fireplace is in the front and water is available nearby. Use of each shelter is normally restricted to 1 night. Camping is permitted along the trail only at these shelter points and a camping permit for each trip is required. (See page 8.) Because of the scarcity of fuel at these sites, you are advised to carry primus-type stoves.