

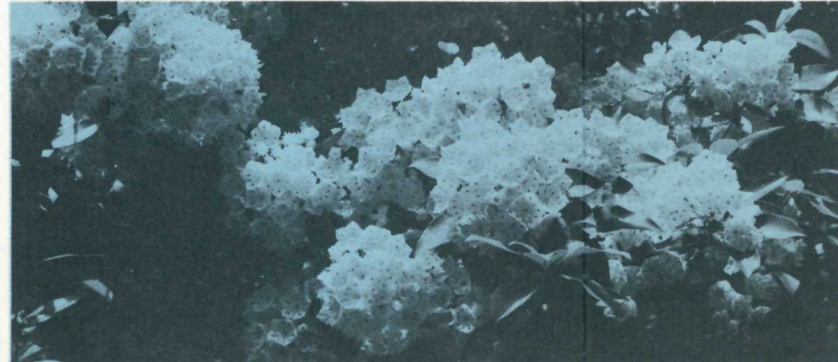
# Great Smoky Mountains

NATIONAL PARK • NORTH CAROLINA AND TENNESSEE

The Chimney Tops



Mountain Laurel



Pileated Woodpecker



Black Bear



Catawba Rhododendron



Old Homestead



Raccoon



Showy Orchis



Large Flowered Trillium



This park has been declared an International Biosphere Reserve and is one of the world's greatest sanctuaries. All natural and historic objects are protected by law. It is a sanctuary for people, too, so please enjoy it with care.

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The Great Smoky Mountains are the majestic climax of the Appalachian Highlands and a wilderness sanctuary that preserves the finest examples of temperate deciduous forest in the world. With outlines softened by a dense forest mantle, the mountains stretch in sweeping troughs and mighty billows to the horizon. The name "Great Smokies" is derived from the smoke-like haze that envelops these mountains.

Much of the park contains virtually unspoiled forests similar to those found by the early pioneers who settled in isolated mountain valleys. Many of their log cabins and barns still stand as reminders of a pioneer way of life that has all but disappeared from these mountains. Today, visitors experience and enjoy the wilderness as a contrast to the pressures of modern living.

Fertile soils and heavy rains, over a long period, have caused a world-renowned variety of flora to develop. Some 1,400 kinds of flowering plants grow in the park. Within the coves, broadleaf trees predominate, while along the crest, which rises to more than 6,000 feet, conifer forests like those of Central Canada find suitable climate.

## HOW TO ENJOY THE PARK

**The park is maintained in its natural and wild condition. Motorists must drive defensively and be alert for hazards caused by changing natural conditions. Hikers must be prepared to meet nature on its own terms. For your safety, don't travel alone, let someone know your schedule, have proper clothes and equipment, boil all drinking water, and observe park regulations.**

The main roads offer only an introduction to the Smokies. At Cades Cove an 11-mile loop road leads past open fields, pioneer homesteads, and

little frame churches where mountain people lived and worshiped almost unnoticed for a century. Near the Oconaluftee visitor center in North Carolina, live demonstrations at an early 20th-century farmstead tell the story of the mountain people more fully.

A scenic, high mountain road winds its way through Newfound Gap to Clingmans Dome; there, a ½-mile walk to an observation tower provides an excellent panorama of the countryside on clear days. In summer you can expect extremely heavy traffic on this route. Slow traffic must use pullouts. There is a 10-ton load limit on bridges in Cataloochee, Cades Cove, and on the Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail. Report accidents at a ranger station.

**Naturalist activities.** From mid-June to Labor Day you may enjoy evening programs and nature walks at most developed campgrounds. During the spring and fall these activities are scheduled on a limited basis. For further information about interpretive events, inquire at any park visitor center or ranger station.

**Trails and Hiking.** The 800 miles of horse and foot trails offer the most rewarding experiences; trails wind along streams and through forests into the high country. Forget life's routines. Pick a trail and hike into the forest stillness of the Smokies. For the "do-it-yourself" naturalist, there are several short, self-guiding nature trails. Pick up the explanatory leaflet at the beginning of each trail. As you walk, read about the relationship of plants to their woodland habitat.

A back-country camping permit is required for all overnight hiking parties and can be obtained free at any ranger station or visitor center. Because of

overcrowding, it is necessary to ration overnight use of the 68 miles of Appalachian Trail within the park. Five other popular areas, Mt. LeConte, Laurel Gap, Kephart Prong, Scott Gap, and Rich Mountain, are also rationed. Arrangements for a permit must be made after you arrive in the park.

There are many uncrowded trails in the park. A listing of trailside campsites, for use in planning alternate hiking routes, is available upon request.

Today it is more necessary than ever that all who visit the wilderness share the responsibility of maintaining its beauty unspoiled. Everything packed in must be packed out.

**From November through March, winter gear and clothing suitable for survival in deep snow and -20° F temperatures is necessary. This includes a sleeping bag adequate to -20°, waterproof matches or fire starter, food, and other items listed in the free leaflet BACKCOUNTRY Map & Camping Guide, available at ranger stations and visitor centers.**

**Pets** are permitted in the park if on a leash or under other physical control at all times. They may not be taken on trails or cross-country hikes.

**Camping.** There are seven developed campgrounds and three primitive camping areas in the park. Fees are charged at developed campgrounds.

Developed campgrounds have water, fireplaces, tables, comfort stations, tent sites, and limited trailer space. You must bring your own tent and other camping equipment, since no shelters are provided. There are no showers or hookups for trailers. The campsite fee is \$4 per site per night.

Disposal stations for trailer holding tanks are located at Smokemont, Cades Cove, and Cosby Campgrounds, and across the road from Sugarlands Visitor Center.

Primitive campgrounds have no developed water supply. All water must be boiled or chemically treated before it is safe to drink. Pit toilets are provided. Camping is limited to 7 days.

**Fishing.** Many of the park's streams provide fishing for rainbow trout and brown trout. In certain streams, managed on a fishing-for-fun plan, you may fish the year round, but you must carefully release all fish under 12 inches. The regular season is from April 15 through October 15; Tennessee or North Carolina fishing licenses are required, but not trout stamps. Local regulations are posted on streams and can be obtained at any park ranger station or visitor center. **The possession of any brook trout is prohibited,** except for those caught in designated children's streams, April 15 to October 15 inclusive.

**Accidents spoil vacations—we are concerned for your safety. Please**

- Stay on the trails.
- Keep off waterfalls and cliff faces.
- Closely watch and control children.

## SEASONS

Wildflowers and migrating birds attract many visitors in late April and early May. If you intend to hike or camp in the spring, bring warm clothing and be prepared for a variety of weather conditions including frequent rainstorms.

Summer days are warm, and nights are usually cool. At higher elevations, temperatures may range from 15 to 20 degrees lower than those in

the valleys. During June and July, the blooming of rhododendron is the outstanding natural event. July and August usually bring the heaviest rainfall, and thunderstorms sometimes come without warning. For greatest comfort on summer hikes, carry a raincoat and insect repellent.

Autumn's pageantry of color usually reaches its peak during the middle of October. To many visitors, this is the finest time of the year. Autumn days are cool and clear—ideal for hiking.

Winter is the most unpredictable season; yet, you shouldn't discount it as a time to visit the Smokies. A quiet peace pervades the park. At times, the fog moving over the mountaintops, blankets the cliffs in frost. However, be prepared for icy road conditions and sudden snowstorms.

## ACCOMMODATIONS AND SERVICES

Most neighboring towns have gas, food, lodging, and camping supplies. Many private campgrounds operate outside the park. For information, write the chambers of commerce of nearby towns in North Carolina and Tennessee.

Accessible only by trail, LeConte Lodge offers accommodations within the park from mid-April to late October. Allow a ½-day hike up a mountain trail to reach this secluded retreat. Reservations are necessary; call or write LeConte Lodge, Gatlinburg, TN 37738

Overnight hotel accommodations and food service are provided at Wonderland Hotel, at Elkmont, June 1 to October 31.

Saddle horses are available at Cades Cove, Smokemont, Dudley Creek, Cosby, and Two Mile Branch near Gatlinburg, from approximately April 1 to October 31.

## ADMINISTRATION

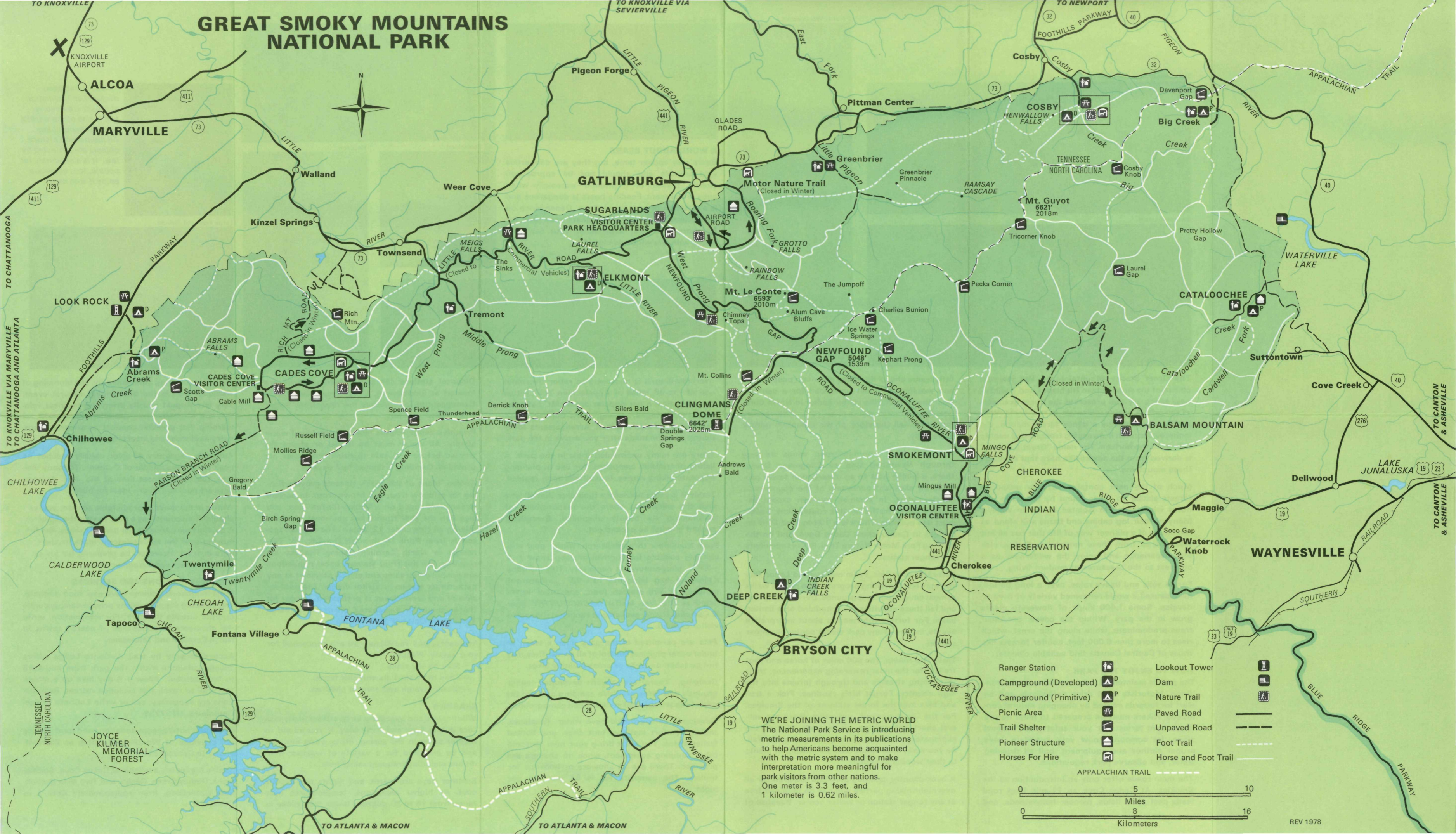
Great Smoky Mountains National Park is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Gatlinburg, TN 37738, is in immediate charge. Park headquarters is 2 miles south of Gatlinburg.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

National Park Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR



# GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK



**WE'RE JOINING THE METRIC WORLD**  
 The National Park Service is introducing metric measurements in its publications to help Americans become acquainted with the metric system and to make interpretation more meaningful for park visitors from other nations. One meter is 3.3 feet, and 1 kilometer is 0.62 miles.

- |                        |  |                      |  |
|------------------------|--|----------------------|--|
| Ranger Station         |  | Lookout Tower        |  |
| Campground (Developed) |  | Dam                  |  |
| Campground (Primitive) |  | Nature Trail         |  |
| Picnic Area            |  | Paved Road           |  |
| Trail Shelter          |  | Unpaved Road         |  |
| Pioneer Structure      |  | Foot Trail           |  |
| Horses For Hire        |  | Horse and Foot Trail |  |
|                        |  | APPALACHIAN TRAIL    |  |

