

Little River Canyon

National Preserve
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



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Many unique habitats, gorgeous vistas, and abundant recreational opportunities are found in Little River Canyon National Preserve. Little River flows along the top of Lookout Mountain through an upland forest backcountry until it reaches Little River Falls just south of Ala. 35. The falls are the beginning of the canyon.

Little River is noted for being pure and unpolluted. The river has carved the sandstone for millennia creating a habitat for many endangered and threatened species and a playground for people that should be enjoyed for generations to come. Geology, biology and human endeavor come together to shape the stories of this precious preserve.



Dennis Holt, DCNR



Canyon Rim Drive (Ala. 176) follows the west rim of Little River Canyon. Sightseeing is the most frequent activity with many spectacular overlooks and undeveloped trails. Some of the overlooks have picnic tables. Worldclass whitewater and outstanding rock climbing challenge the adventurous visitors. Be very careful near cliffs and ledges.

Little River flows out of the canyon as it leaves Lookout Mountain at Canyon Mouth Park. This day-use facility features hiking, picnicking or simply relaxing near the water. The hiking trails here thread through the lower canyon overlooking rapids and boulderfields. This is a popular takeout for whitewater enthusiasts.

DeSoto State Park is one of our partners in the operation of the preserve. It has a lodge, motel, restaurant, cottages, campsites, and camp store. Activities in DeSoto State Park include a nature center, pool, playground, tennis court, trails and picnic areas.

The drive along the canyon is breathtaking any time of year. Wildflowers blooming for most of the year add beauty to the majestic scenery. The roaring of the river and the singing of the birds mix with the soothing wind to inspire the visitors to the canyon. From the smallest mosses to the largest rock faces, the beauty and vastness of the preserve is overwhelming. Canyon Rim Drive is part of Lookout Mountain Parkway, which leaves the canyon south of Bear Creek.

No facilities are in place in the backcountry. The backcountry is a multi-use zone with trails, whitewater, fishing, and even managed hunting. Use trails with caution. Be courteous to those sharing the trails. The quiet solitude found far from developed parts of the park offers visitors a chance to reflect peacefully. The backcountry and adjacent DeSoto State Park have scenic trails with numerous cascades and waterfalls and the best developed hiking areas.

ADMINISTRATION: Little River Canyon National Preserve was established by an Act of Congress on October 21, 1992, to protect and preserve the natural, scenic, recreational, and cultural resources of the area and provide for the protection and public enjoyment of these resources.

For more information, contact the Superintendent, Little River Canyon National Preserve, 2141 Gault Avenue North, Fort Payne, AL 35967 (256) 845-9605 www.nps.gov/liri

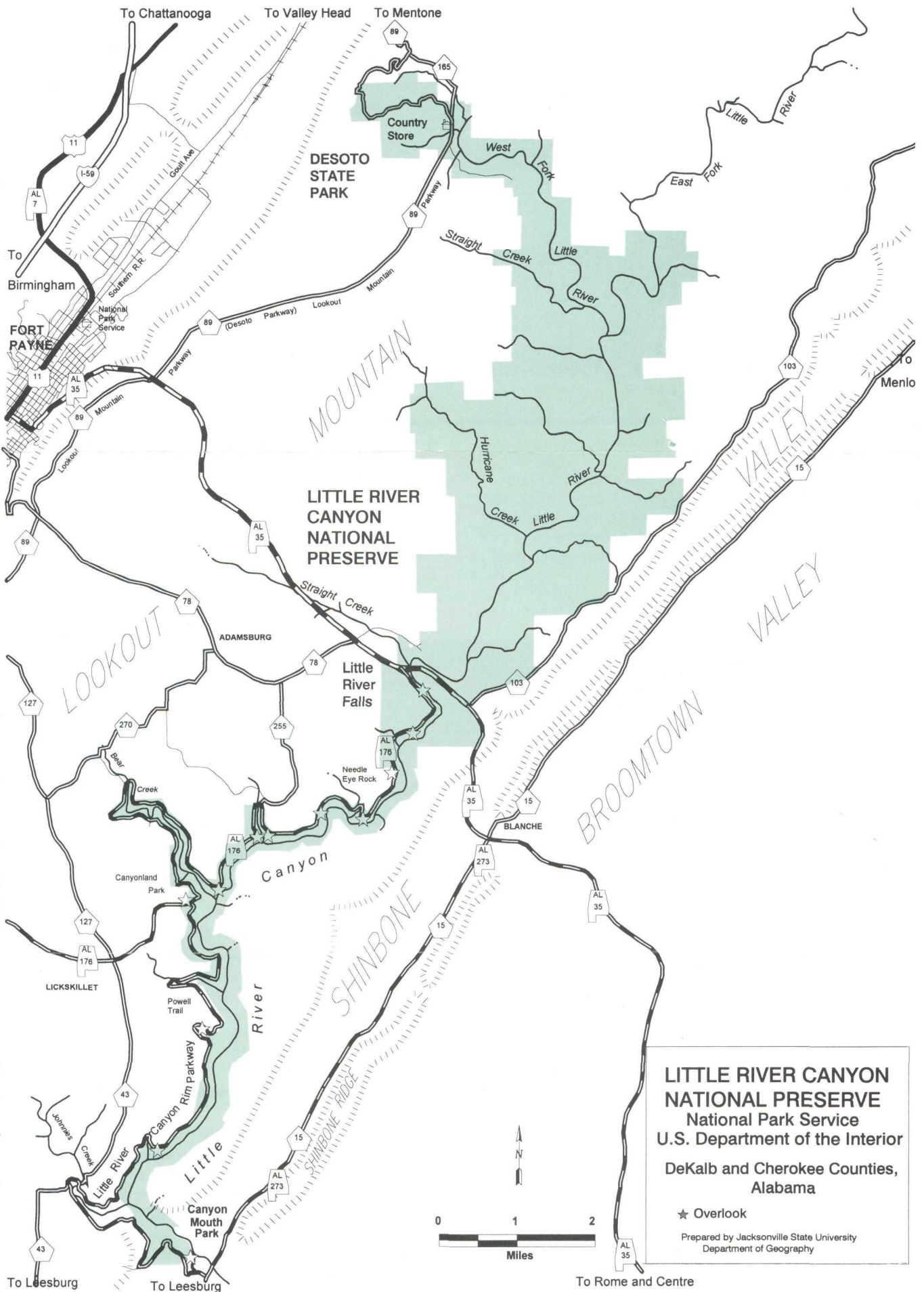
LOCATION: Little River Canyon National Preserve is located in northeast Alabama, 40 miles west of Rome, 45 miles northeast of Gadsden, 50 miles southwest of Chattanooga, 75 miles east of Huntsville, and only 90 miles from Atlanta.

Little River Canyon National Preserve is best reached by Ala. 35 east of Fort Payne, Alabama. DeSoto State Park is located at the north end of the preserve on county road 89. Canyon Mouth Park is located on Ala. 273 north of Leesburg, Alabama.

SAFETY: Keep safety in mind as you enjoy the beauty of the area. Closely supervise children. The bluffs, deep swift water, and waterfalls are very dangerous. Please stay on trails. Many of the existing trails in the canyon are steep and strenuous. Please note hunting seasons and regulations in the backcountry of the park if you plan to see that part of the park. Be aware that poisonous snakes and poison ivy are present in the park.

Please lock your valuables in your trunk.

Plants, rocks, relics, artifacts, and animals should be left undisturbed.



Boundaries are approximate, no private lands are within the boundaries of the National Preserve.