

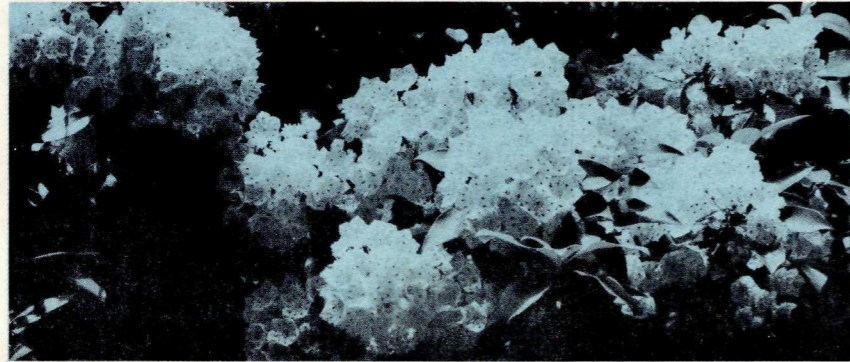
Great Smoky Mountains

NATIONAL PARK • NORTH CAROLINA AND TENNESSEE

The Chimney Tops



Mountain Laurel



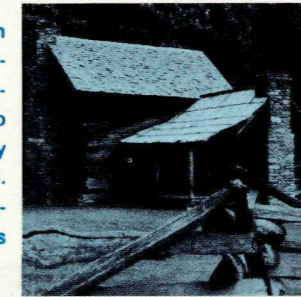
Pileated Woodpecker



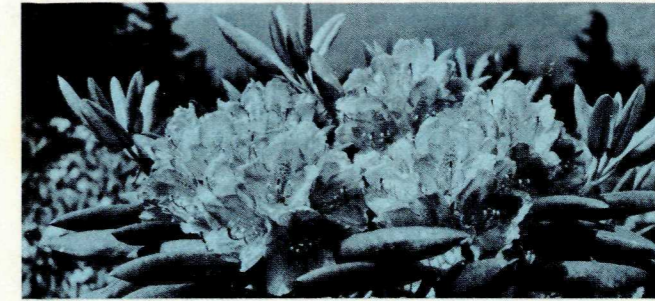
A WORD ABOUT BEARS

It is reckless to approach bears closely; even though they appear tame they may turn impulsively and inflict serious injury. They are particularly dangerous when accompanied by cubs. Do not feed, tease, frighten, or molest them in any way; such acts are violations of park regulations. On foot, give all bears a wide berth; if one approaches your car, stay inside with the windows closed.

Old Homestead



Catawba Rhododendron



Orchid



Large Flowered Trillium



The Great Smoky Mountains, which form the boundary between North Carolina and Tennessee, are a majestic climax to the Appalachian Highlands. 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 monuments to a pioneer way of life that has all but disappeared from these mountains. Today, visitors enjoy a wilderness that is a sanctuary for all plants and animals.

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, with caution, and be alert for hazards caused by changing natural conditions. Hikers must be prepared to enjoy nature on its own terms. For your safety, be informed, don't travel alone, let someone know your schedule, have proper clothes and equipment, 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. At the Oconaluftee Pioneer Museum in North Carolina, exhibits, live demonstrations, and a 19th-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 1/2-mile walk to an observation tower on a clear day provides an excellent panorama of the countryside. In summer you can expect extremely heavy traffic on this route.

Park roads were designed as access to scenic points of interest and are not high-speed highways. Park only in designated areas. Report any accidents to the nearest ranger station.

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

Trails and hiking. The 600 miles of horse and foot trails offer the most rewarding experiences; trails wind along streams and through forests into the high country. Spectacular views and waterfalls on many of the streams are popular objectives. For a most enjoyable experience, pick a trail and hike into the forest stillness of the Smokies; forget the hustle and bustle of modern-day living.

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 variety of plantlife and learn, on your own, a little of the relationship of plants to their woodland habitat.

A backcountry camping permit is required for all overnight hiking parties and can be obtained free of charge at any ranger station, visitor center or Park Headquarters. Because of overcrowding, it has become necessary to ration overnight use of the 68 miles of Appalachian Trail within the park. Four other popular areas, Mt. LeConte, Laurel Gap, Kephart Prong and Moore Spring are rationed also. 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 and unmarred.

For a winter camping experience from November through March, the camping permit will be issued only after winter gear and clothing are approved by a ranger as adequate for survival in deep snow and 20° temperatures. All unburnables must be carried out.

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, and tent 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. From June 1 through Labor Day, the camping limit is 7 days.

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.

You won't need a camping permit for campgrounds reached by car, but registration is required upon arrival.

Fishing. Many of the park's streams provide fishing for rainbow, brook, 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 16 inches. The regular season is from April 15 through September 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.

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 spring visitors. Spring weather can begin as early as January. If you intend to hike or camp at this season, bring warm clothing, and be prepared for a variety of weather conditions.

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 last 2 weeks 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 conifers in frost.

ACCOMMODATIONS

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.

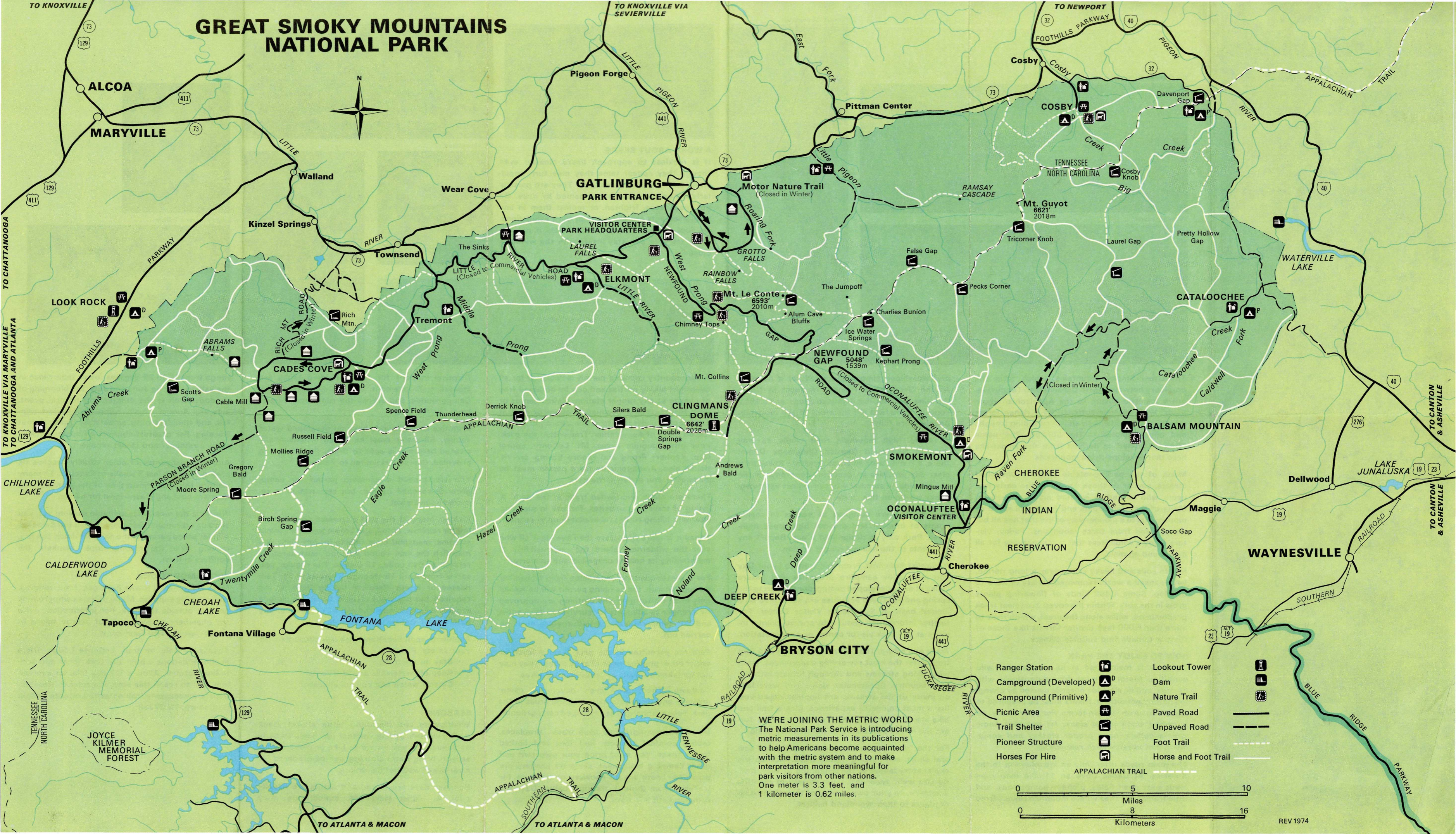
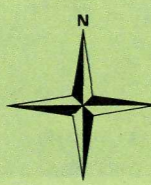
Accessible only by trail, LeConte Lodge offers accommodations within the park from mid-April to late October. Allow a 1/2 day hike up a mountain trail to reach this secluded retreat. Reservations are necessary; call or write LeConte Lodge, Gatlinburg, TN 37738.

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.

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.

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|------------------------|--|----------------------|--|
| 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 | |

