



Stream Crossings

Nearly all park trails cross small streams—making very wet crossings during flooding. The following trails that cross streams with no bridges can be difficult and dangerous at flood stage. (Asterisks ** indicate the most difficult and potentially dangerous.) This list is not all-inclusive.

Beard Cane Trail near campsite #3
Beech Gap Trail on Straight Fork Road
Caldwell Fork Trail multiple unbridged water crossings
Cold Spring Gap Trail at Hazel Creek
Eagle Creek Trail** 15 crossings
Fork Ridge Trail crossing of Deep Creek at junction with Deep Creek Trail
Forney Creek Trail** seven crossings
Gunter Fork Trail** five crossings
Hannah Mountain Trail** just before Abrams Falls Trail
Jonas Creek Trail near Forney Creek
Little River Trail just past campsite #24 and near campsite #30
Long Hungry Ridge Trail both sides of campsite #92
Lost Cove Trail near Lakeshore Trail junction
Meigs Creek Trail 18 crossings
Noland Creek Trail** both sides of campsite #62
Panther Creek Trail at Middle Prong Trail junction
Pole Road Creek Trail near Deep Creek Trail
Rabbit Creek Trail at the Abrams Falls Trailhead
Roundtop Trail** crossing of Little River at Little River Road
Trillium Gap Trail at Grotto Falls (icy in winter)
Upper Hazel Creek Trail hiker-only portion
Wet Bottom Trail follows signs for Elijah Oliver Trail as alternate route

Facility Closures

Many areas of the park, including roads, frontcountry campgrounds, trails, and backcountry campsites/shelters are subject to closure as environmental conditions or operational capabilities change. Please check the park's website at nps.gov for the latest closure information.

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North

0 1 10 Kilometers
0 1 10 Miles

MAP LEGEND

Unpaved road
Hiking trail
Horse and hiking trail
Ranger station
Developed campground
Auto-access horse camp
Observation tower
Shelter (Hiker only)
Shelter (Horse and hiker)
Hiker only campsite
Horse and hiker campsite
Boat-in only campsite

Appalachian Trail
Hiking only (top)
Horse and hiking

Mountains-to-Sea Trail

Benton MacKaye Trail

Trail distances are shown in miles between intersections

1.3

This trail map is not intended to show legal boundary of the national park.

Your Guide to the Wondrous Diversity of the Smokies

One hundred fifty trails extend for approximately 800 miles, crossing the ridges, peaks, and valleys of America's most visited national park.

For those seeking more information, a variety of topographic maps and trail guides are available, including *Hiking Trails of the Smokies*, the comprehensive park trail guidebook. To order a map or guide, call 865.436.7318, ext. 226, or visit SmokiesLife.org.



STEVEN IVES PHOTOGRAPH



BILL LEA PHOTOGRAPH

Using the Chart at Right

Backcountry campsites and shelters are listed by map coordinates (7E, etc.), with their elevations in feet. Backcountry campsites are numbered and grouped by the major access areas. All sites and shelters are available to hikers, but camping with horses and other



NPS PHOTOGRAPH



NFS PHOTOGRAPH

For Your Safety

Do not leave valuables in sight inside your car. Do not leave a note on your car indicating how long you will be hiking. Protect your valuables by taking them with you or hiding them in your car.

Leave No Trace

Your personal commitment to ethical backcountry use is the most important factor in maintaining the park's wilderness character. Take pride in leaving no trace of your presence here.

- Abide by all backcountry use regulations. They are designed for resource protection.
- Use a stove to cook and a lantern or flashlight for light to minimize the trampling and destruction of vegetation that result from collecting firewood.
- Never cook or burn food in a campfire. Food residues and odors remain and attract wildlife that will become a problem for future campers.
- Keep your group small to preserve a sense of solitude.
- Camp where your campsite already shows impacts. Don't establish new tent sites.
- Pack out all leftover food and trash.
- Avoid cutting across switch-backs to prevent destructive trail erosion.

If You Get Lost

Stay calm, do not leave the trail, and do not travel at night. Prevent getting lost by keeping your group together, staying on the trail, and using a map. Let someone know your schedule and travel plans so they can notify park authorities if you are overdue.

Toilet Use

Improper human waste disposal creates one of the most disgusting conditions in the backcountry. Regulations require that human feces be deposited in a six-inch-deep hole and covered with soil. No toilet use may occur within 100 feet of a camp or water source or within sight of a trail. Defecating behind a shelter or near a spring creates very unhealthy conditions and is clearly bad manners. All toilet paper, sanitary napkins, and tampons must be packed out. Do not bury them. Please, take a little extra care!

Into the Wild: Visiting the Smokies Backcountry

If Someone Gets Injured

If someone is injured and can't be moved to a trailhead, do the following: Provide warmth and comfort; leave someone with the injured person; note the exact location and circumstances; and hike out and let rescuers know where to go and what to prepare for. It is *your* responsibility to make sure you don't get injured. Be careful and use common sense. Getting accident victims out of the backcountry is difficult and often dangerous for all involved.

There are no cellular phone towers in the park so cell phones do not work from most locations. The tops of high ridges near the park boundary are the most likely spots for reception. For emergencies only, call 911 or 865.436.9171.

Hazards!

Wind. High winds associated with approaching weather fronts can bring down trees and limbs on heavily forested trails. Plan accordingly.

Hypothermia. Hypothermia is when body temperature falls below the point at which the body can maintain its own heat. It is an all-season killer and results from exposure to a combination of wind, rain, and cold. At higher elevations, a wet hiker can succumb to hypothermia in mid-summer. Be prepared for sudden weather changes—and learn how to take care of yourself in extremes of cold, heat, and wetness. Always carry raingear; storms arise quickly. Hypothermia symptoms can appear very rapidly, even in mild weather.

Know hypothermia's symptoms and treat them immediately: uncontrolled shivering, slurred speech, memory lapses, stumbling, fumbling hands, drowsiness, and the inability to get up after a nap. Victims need dry clothing, warm fluids if conscious, and shelter from the elements. To prevent hypothermia, drink before thirsty, eat before hungry, rest before tired, and stay dry. Travel and stay with a companion. Two people can look after each other better than one can look after oneself! Clothing should be worn in layers, an outer layer to ward off wind and precipitation, and inner layers to insulate. Keep your head warm and dry with a good hat. Other cold weather hazards include frostbite, icy trails, and deep snow.

Stream crossings and waterfalls. Rain-swollen streams can be unsafe to ford. Don't cross a stream unless you are sure you can make it. As an additional precaution, make sure your pack can be discarded quickly, wear shoes to protect your feet, use a stout stick for extra support, and, if you lose your footing, float with your feet downstream to protect your head. Walking near a stream on moss- and spray-covered rocks

can be hazardous. Never camp next to a stream swollen by high water. Waterfalls can be extremely hazardous; climbing on them has resulted in many fatalities.

Drinking water. All water obtained in the backcountry should be treated before drinking to protect you from health hazards. The recommended treatment is to boil it for one minute. Many park waters are clear, cold, and free-running. Nevertheless, they may not be safe to drink unless boiled. Filters may not remove certain bacteria or viruses, and chemical disinfectants require very long contact times for the water temperatures found in these mountains. Do not drink untreated water!

Trees and limbs. Before you set up camp, take a moment to look up and around you for any trees or limbs that may pose a hazard. Camp away from any areas that may be threatened by tree or limb fall.

Special Equipment Concerns

Clothing. One essential piece of equipment for hiking in the Smokies is a rain jacket. Bring it along even on sunny days when there's not a cloud in the forecast. Sooner or later you'll be thankful you did.

When hiking in the high country between September and May, always carry warm clothing, including hat and gloves.

Footwear. Truly waterproof boots can be a big plus in the Smokies. Not only will they keep your feet drier during rainy weather, they also give you a little extra assistance when crossing shallow streams.

Crampons. Small, clip-on crampons can be very helpful when hiking high-elevation trails during cold weather.

Bears and You!

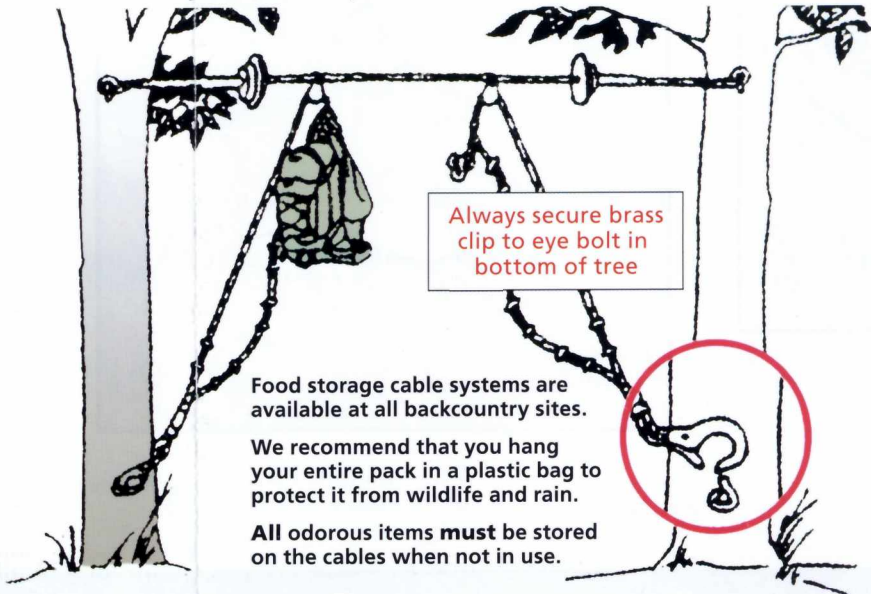
Bears in the park are wild, and their behavior is unpredictable. Attacks on humans are extremely rare, but they

have happened, inflicting serious injuries and death. Treat bear encounters with extreme caution and follow the guidelines below.

Encounters along the trail. Stay alert. If you see a bear at a distance, do not approach it. If your presence causes the bear to change its behavior (it stops feeding, changes travel direction, watches you, etc.)—YOU'RE TOO CLOSE. Being too close may also promote aggressive behavior from the bear, like running toward you, making loud noises, or swatting the ground. The bear is demanding more space. Don't run but slowly back away, watching the bear. Try to increase the distance between you and the bear, and the bear will probably do the same. If a bear persistently follows or approaches you, typically without vocalizing or paw swatting, try changing your direction. If the bear continues to follow you, stand your ground. If the bear gets closer, talk loudly or shout at it. Act aggressively and try to intimidate the bear. Act together as a group if you have companions. Make yourselves look as large as possible (for example, move to higher ground). Throw non-food items like rocks at the bear. Use a deterrent like a stout stick. Don't run and don't turn away from the bear. Don't leave food for the bear; this only encourages further problems.

Most injuries from black bear attacks are minor and result from the bear trying to get at people's food. If the bear's behavior shows that it is after your food, and you are physically attacked, separate yourself from the food and slowly back away. If the bear shows no interest in your food, and you are physically attacked, fight back aggressively with any available object—the bear may consider you prey! Help protect others: report all bear incidents to a park ranger immediately. Above all, keep your distance from bears!

Encounters in camp. The best way to avoid bears is not to attract them to you. Keep your cooking and sleeping areas



Always secure brass clip to eye bolt in bottom of tree

Food storage cable systems are available at all backcountry sites.

We recommend that you hang your entire pack in a plastic bag to protect it from wildlife and rain.

All odorous items must be stored on the cables when not in use.

Trip Planning and Permits

separate. Keep tents and sleeping bags free of food odors; do not store food, garbage, or other attractants (including toothpaste and soap) in them. A clean camp is essential to reducing problems. Pack out all food and litter; don't bury it or try to burn anything.

Regulations require proper food storage. Secure all food and odorous items (e.g. toothpaste, lip balm) when not in use. Where food storage devices are present, they must be used. Otherwise, place all odorous items in your pack. Select two trees 10 to 20 feet apart with limbs 15 feet high. Using a rock for a weight, toss a rope over a limb on the first tree; tie one end to the pack. Repeat this process with the second tree. Raise the pack about six feet via the first rope and tie it off. Then pull the second rope until the pack is suspended at least 10 feet high and evenly spaced; it must be four feet or more from the nearest limb.

Camping Permits

All backcountry camping requires a permit, which can be obtained online at smokiespermits.nps.gov, by calling 865.436.1297, or by visiting the Backcountry Information Office located in Sugarlands Visitor Center, two miles south of Gatlinburg, TN, on U.S. 441 (Newfound Gap Road). As of March 1, 2023, general backcountry permits are \$8 per person, per night, with a maximum fee of \$40 for up to seven consecutive nights. AT thru-hiker permits are \$40 and provide for eight days/seven nights to travel through the park on the Appalachian Trail. Trips exceeding seven nights require an additional permit. Reservations may be made up to 30 days in advance of the first day of your trip.

In addition to a backcountry permit, those parking a car at any trailhead inside the park are required to have an appropriate parking tag. Visit nps.gov/grsm/playyourvisit/fees.htm for more details and purchasing options.

You may not stay two nights in a row in the same shelter or campsite 113. You may not stay more than three consecutive nights at any other campsite. Using a tent or a hammock at any shelter is prohibited.

The maximum group size is eight persons, except at the following campsites where parties of up to 12 are permitted: 17, 20, 46, 60, 86, and 90. For parties greater than eight persons, reservations for these sites must be made through the Backcountry Information Office.

Under Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, failure to abide by park regulations may result in a fine or imprisonment.

Planning Your Trip

For a safe and enjoyable backpacking experience, know your limitations. A maximum trip length of eight to 10 miles

a day is recommended. Group size, elevation gain, weather, and availability of good water may also affect the success of your trip.

For trip planning assistance, visit or call the Backcountry Information Office at 865.436.1297.

The following equipment is considered essential for a safe backpacking trip: two flashlights, water, raingear, comfortable ankle-supporting shoes, high-energy food, and extra clothing. Always carry a map and know how to use it.

Rules and Regulations

1. You must possess a valid backcountry permit while camping in the backcountry.
2. Camping is permitted only at designated sites and shelters. All sites require advance reservations.
3. You may not stay two nights in a row in the same shelter or campsite 113. You may not stay more than three consecutive nights at any other campsite.
4. Maximum group size is eight persons, except at the sites noted in the "Camping Permits" section.
5. Open fires are prohibited except at designated sites. Use only wood that is dead and on the ground. Never cut live or standing trees. Use only established fire rings. Do not leave fires lit or unattended. A fire is out when it is cold to the touch.
6. Use of tents and hammocks at shelters is prohibited. They may not be used inside or attached to shelters. Tents may only be used within designated campsites. Hammocks may be used at campsites as long as wide or tree-saver straps are used and they are set up in areas where vegetation will not be trampled.
7. Food storage: When not being consumed or transported, all food, trash, and odorous items must be suspended at least 10 feet off the ground and four feet from the nearest limb or trunk or shall be stored as otherwise designated. See **Bears and You!**
8. Toilet use must be at least 100 feet from a campsite or water source and out of sight of the trail, campsite, or shelter. Human feces must be buried in a hole that is six to eight inches deep. All toilet paper, tampons, and sanitary items must be packed out.
9. All trash must be carried out.
10. All plants, wildlife, and natural and historic features are protected by law. Do not carve, deface, or cut any standing trees or shrubs.
11. Polluting park waters is prohibited; do not wash dishes or bathe with soap in a stream. Biodegradeable soap does not break down in water and is a pollutant.
12. Pets, motorized vehicles, and bicycles are not permitted in the backcountry.
13. Hunting is prohibited.
14. Feeding or harassing any wildlife is prohibited.

Horse Use

Horses and other pack animals (i.e., mules and llamas) are permitted in the park, but they are restricted to trails specifically designated for horse use (see *map on other side*). Many horse trails are very steep and narrow—a challenge for even the most experienced horse and rider. Remoteness and difficulty of access often make continual trail clearing and care impractical. Expect to encounter rugged conditions. Please report down trees or landslides to a ranger. Off-trail or cross-country use is prohibited. Horse parties may use designated campsites open to their use (see *chart*). Horse parties are subject to all backcountry regulations.

Requirements: Horse parties must obtain a backcountry camping permit and reservation for any overnight backcountry camping. Horses must be under physical control at all times; they may not be left to water unattended; grazing is prohibited. All food for stock must be packed in, and unused food must be packed out. At designated backcountry sites where stock are permitted, the number of animals in any one party is limited to one per person plus one pack animal per person, but shall not exceed a total of ten (10) animals for the same group or the stock capacity for that site. See chart at right.

In campsites with no hitch posts or racks, horses must be cross-tied so that they cannot chew on or otherwise damage trees or other vegetation. Tying horses directly to trees is prohibited.

Horses are not permitted within 100 feet of trail shelters or in cooking or sleeping areas of campsites. Their manure must be scattered away from the campsite. Horses must not be tied closer than 100 feet to any stream or water source.

- Carry and use a collapsible bucket to water your horse—keep horses away from springs.
- Never leave feed where wildlife can get to it—wildlife attracted to feed can come into conflict with people.
- Use processed feed to eliminate introducing weed seeds into the park—hay may contain seeds of exotic plants, and some non-native plants can take over the habitat of native plants.

Auto-access Horse Camps

Limited auto-access horse camps provide ready access to backcountry trails from April through October. Reservations are required and may be made up to five months in advance. For reservations call 1.877.444.6777 between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. eastern time or visit recreation.gov.

Auto-access Horse Camp	No. of Campsites
Anthony Creek	3
Big Creek	5
Cataloochee	7
Round Bottom	5
Tow String	2

Backcountry Campsites

Site No.	Capacity	Elev. (Feet)	Map Key
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Cades Cove Area

1	Cooper Road (12)	1200	2D
2	Cane Creek (4)	1320	2D
3	Hesse Creek (8, 2H)	1360	3D
5	Rich Mountain (4, 2H)	3400	3D
6	Turkeypen Ridge (8)	3400	4D
9	Anthony Creek (12)	3200	4E
10	Ledbetter Ridge (8)	3000	4E
12	Forge Creek (12)	2600	3E
13	Sheep Pen Gap (15, 8H)	4640	2F
14	Flint Gap (8)	2050	2E
15	Rabbit Creek (12)	1550	2E
16	Scott Gap (10)	1700	2E
17	Little Bottoms (14)	1240	2D

Elkmont/Tremont Area

18	West Prong (12)	1600	4D
19	Upper Henderson (8, 2H)	2880	5D
20	King Branch (12, 4H)	2520	5D
21	Mile 53 (12)	2640	6D
23	Camp Creek (12)	3200	6D
24	Rough Creek (15)	2860	6D
26	Dripping Spring Mountain (10)	4400	6D
27	Lower Jakes Gap (12, 2H)	3520	5D
28	Marks Cove (12, 6H)	3490	5D
30	Three Forks (12)	3400	6E

Greenbrier/Cosby Area

29	Otter Creek (10)	4560	10B
31	Porters Flat (8)	3400	8D
32	Engine Creek (8)	2280	8C
33	Settlers Camp (8)	1960	9B
34	Sugar Cove (10)	3240	10B
35	Gilliland Creek (12, 4H)	2680	10B

Cataloochee/Big Creek Area

36	Upper Walnut Bottom (20, 20H)	3040	11C
37	Lower Walnut Bottom (20)	3000	11C
38	Mount Sterling (12)	5820	11C
39	Pretty Hollow (20, 10H)	3040	11D
40	Big Hemlock (8)	3100	11D
41	Caldwell Fork (12, 6H)	3360	11E
42	Spruce Mountain (4)	5480	10D

Oconaluftee Area

44	McGee Spring (12, 4H)	5040	10D
47	Enloe Creek (8)	3620	10D
48	Upper Chasteen (8)	3320	9D
49	Cabin Flats (12, 8H)	3060	9D
50	Lower Chasteen Creek (15, 6H)	2360	9E

Deep Creek Area

46	Estes Branch (12)	2870	8F
51	Georges Branch (12)	2800	8F
52	Newton Bald (8, 2H)	5000	8E
53	Poke Patch (6)	3000	8E
54	Nettie Creek (6)	2600	8E
55	Pole Road (15, 15H)	2410	8E
56	Burnt Spruce (6)	2405	8F
57	Bryson Place (10, 10H)	2360	8F
58	Nicks Nest Branch (6)	2360	8F
59	McCracken Branch (10)	2320	7F
60	Bumgardner Branch (20, 4H)	2120	7F

Noland Creek Area

61	Bald Creek (10, 6H)	3560	7E
62	Upper Ripshin (8, 6H)	3160	7F
63	Jerry Flats (8, 6H)	2920	7F
64	Mill Creek (12, 10H)	2540	7F
65	Bear Pen Branch (8)	2040	6F
66	Lower Noland Creek (Boats Only) (4)	1720	6G
67	Goldmine Branch (6)	1840	6G

Forney Creek Area

68	Steeltrap (8)	3960	6E
69	Huggins (8)	2800	6F
70	Jonas Creek (12, 8H)	2400	6F
71	CCC (12, 12H)	2180	6F
74	Lower Forney (12, 8H)	1720	6G
75	Poplar Flats (8)	2800	5F

Hazel Creek Area

82	Calhoun (8, 4H)	2720	5F
83	Bone Valley (20, 10H)	2280	5F
84	Sugar Fork (6)	2160	4F
85	Sawdust Pile (10, 6H)	2000	4F
86	Proctor (20, 8H)	1680	4F
88	Possum Hollow (12)	1960	4F

Twentymile Area

89	Lower Ekanettelee (8)	1880	4F
90	Lost Cove (12, 6H)	1760	3F
91	Upper Lost Cove (4)	2040	3F
92	Upper Flats (10, 6H)	2520	3F
93	Twentymile Creek (8)	1880	3F
95	Dalton Branch (12, 6H)	2360	2F
96	Eagle Creek Island (8)	2880	4F
97	Big Walnut (8)	2400	4E
113	Birch Spring Gap (12, 6H)	3680	3F

Lakeshore Area

87	Jerry Hollow (Boats only) (6)	1720	3G
72	Gunter Branch (Boats only) (6)	1720	6G
73	Lone Pine (Boats only) (6)	1720	6G
76	Kirkland Creek (6)	1770	5G
77	Pilkey Creek (12, 6H)	1800	5G
78	Double Island (Boats only) (6)	1720	5G
81	North Shore (12, 6H)	1800	4G
98	Chambers Creek (12, 6H)	1720	5G

Shelters

Davenport Gap (12, 12H)	2600	11B
Cosby Knob (12, 12H)	4700	10C
Tricorner Knob (12, 12H)	5920	10C
Pecks Corner (12, 12H)	5280	9D
Cewater Spring (12)	5920	8D
Mount Collins (12)	5870	7E
Double Spring Gap (12)	5507	6E
Silers Bald (12, 12H)	5460	6E
Derrick Knob (12)	4890	5E
Spence Field (12, 12H)	4900	4E
Russell Field (14, 12H)	4360	4E
Mollies Ridge (12, 12H)	4570	3E
Mount Le Conte (12)	6440	7D
Kephart (14, 12H)	3900	8D
Laurel Gap (14, 12H)	5600	10D