

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Tennessee--North Carolina

THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL IN THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

The Appalachian Trail follows the North Carolina-Tennessee state line, along the crest of the Smokies, for a total distance of approximately 70 miles, from its eastern terminus at Davenport Gap to its southwestern terminus at Fontana Dam. The trans-mountain highway, U.S. 441, intersects this trail at its approximate half-way point, Newfound Gap.

The eastern section of the trail (between Davenport Gap and Newfound Gap is a graded 4-foot standard horse trail. The western section (between Newfound Gap and Doe Knob) is an ungraded, brushed out foot trail, rather rough in places, marked with white paint. In the section between Doe Knob on the state line and Fontana, the trail has been marked and brushed out; it is very steep between Shuckstack and Fontana.

There are 5 trailside shelters and 4 campsites on this trail, located as follows: Campsite (9/10 mile from Davenport Gap); Cosby Knob Shelter (7.1 miles from campsite, Cosby Knob Shelter was destroyed by fire in 1958, but will be rebuilt before June 15, 1959); Tri-Corner Knob Shelter (7.5 miles from Cosby Knob); Peck's Corner Shelter (5.8 miles from Tri-Corner Knob); Ice Water Spring shelter (7.1 miles from Peck's Corner, 3 miles from Newfound Gap); Indian Gap campsite (5 miles from Ice Water Springs); Silers Bald Shelter (9.5 miles from Indian Gap, 5 miles from end of road at Forney Ridge parking area); Halls Cabin campsite (5.7 miles from Silers Bald); Spence Field Shelter (5.6 miles from Halls Cabin); Birch Spring Gap campsite (9.7 miles from Spence Field, 2.2 miles from Doe Knob on state line, 5.4 miles from Fontana). There is also such a shelter at Moore Spring on Gregory Bald (9.9 miles from Spence Field, 2.6 miles from Doe Knob, 7 miles from Deals Gap).

The shelters are enclosed on three sides with one large opening on the front, (long) side. In each shelter is a bunk made of a wooden frame with heavy wire screen for the springs, raised off the ground about 2 feet; this should accommodate 6 persons. Each shelter has a fireplace, water supply, garbage pit, and pit latrine. There are no means for heating the shelters; there are no shelters at the campsites

Camping or fire-building is permitted along this trail only at the trailside shelters and designated campsites, except when some unforeseen emergency may arise. The stay at any one shelter is limited to one night unless inclement weather prevents the resumption of the trip. A camping permit is required for camping along this trail. Such a permit may be obtained from any of the rangers or upon application to the office of the Superintendent, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Gatlinburg, Tennessee. The application must contain such information as to the dates between which the camping will be done, the section of the trail to be traversed, and the number of persons in the party.

Hiker should store their food and packsacks out of reach of bears. One method is to suspend such items from a branch that is too light to carry the bear's weight, and far enough out so that the bear cannot reach such items from either the tree trunk or ground. DO NOT PLACE FOOD, OR WALK, UPON METAL ROOFS OF THE SHELTERS.

Because of the scarcity of fuel at the shelters, hikers are advised to carry primus-type stoves. Frequent showers occur during every month of the year - rain gear is highly recommended.