

Great Smoky Mountains

NATIONAL PARK • NORTH CAROLINA AND TENNESSEE

The Chimney Tops



Mountain Laurel



Pileated Woodpecker



Catawba Rhododendron



Old Homestead



Orchid



Large Flowered Trillium



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.



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, quite similar to those which our early settlers met and conquered. The valleys held the settlers' isolated farms; many of the log cabins and barns stand as monuments to a pioneer way of life that is almost gone from these mountains. Today's visitors enjoy a wild 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 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 May 1 to October 31, naturalists lead walks daily from Sugarlands Visitor Center, and present illustrated talks each night. From mid-June to Labor Day, you may enjoy a nightly campfire program and daily nature walks from developed campgrounds. Further information about these interpretive activities can be obtained at Sugarlands Visitor Center, Oconaluftee Pioneer Museum, or ranger stations.

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.

The famed Appalachian Trail, which extends from Maine to Georgia, passes through the Smokies. Coming into the park at Davenport Gap, it follows the boundary of the two States for 71 miles along the crest of some of the highest peaks; it leaves the park at Fontana Dam. The trail is accessible by car from these two points and also from Newfound Gap and Clingmans Dome.

Trailside shelters, spaced about 1 day's journey apart, can be used by those who accept the challenge of a few days on the Appalachian Trail. Each shelter is restricted to 1 night's use, on a first-come, first-served basis. The required campfire permit can be obtained, without charge, at any visitor center or ranger station. To assure the safety of those wishing to enjoy a winter camping experience from November through March, campfire permits will be issued only after the camping gear is inspected by a park ranger. Tin cans, foil, glass, and other 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 four primitive camping areas in the park. No reservations can be made.

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 limit is 14 days. Camping trailers or truck campers cannot be accommodated at Greenbrier because of steep grades.

You won't need a campfire permit for campgrounds reached by car, but registration is required upon arrival at both developed and primitive camping areas.

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.

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.

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 basic responsibilities for water, fish, wildlife, mineral, land, park, and recreational resources. Indian and Territorial affairs are other major concerns of America's "Department of Natural Resources." The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all our resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States—now and in the future.

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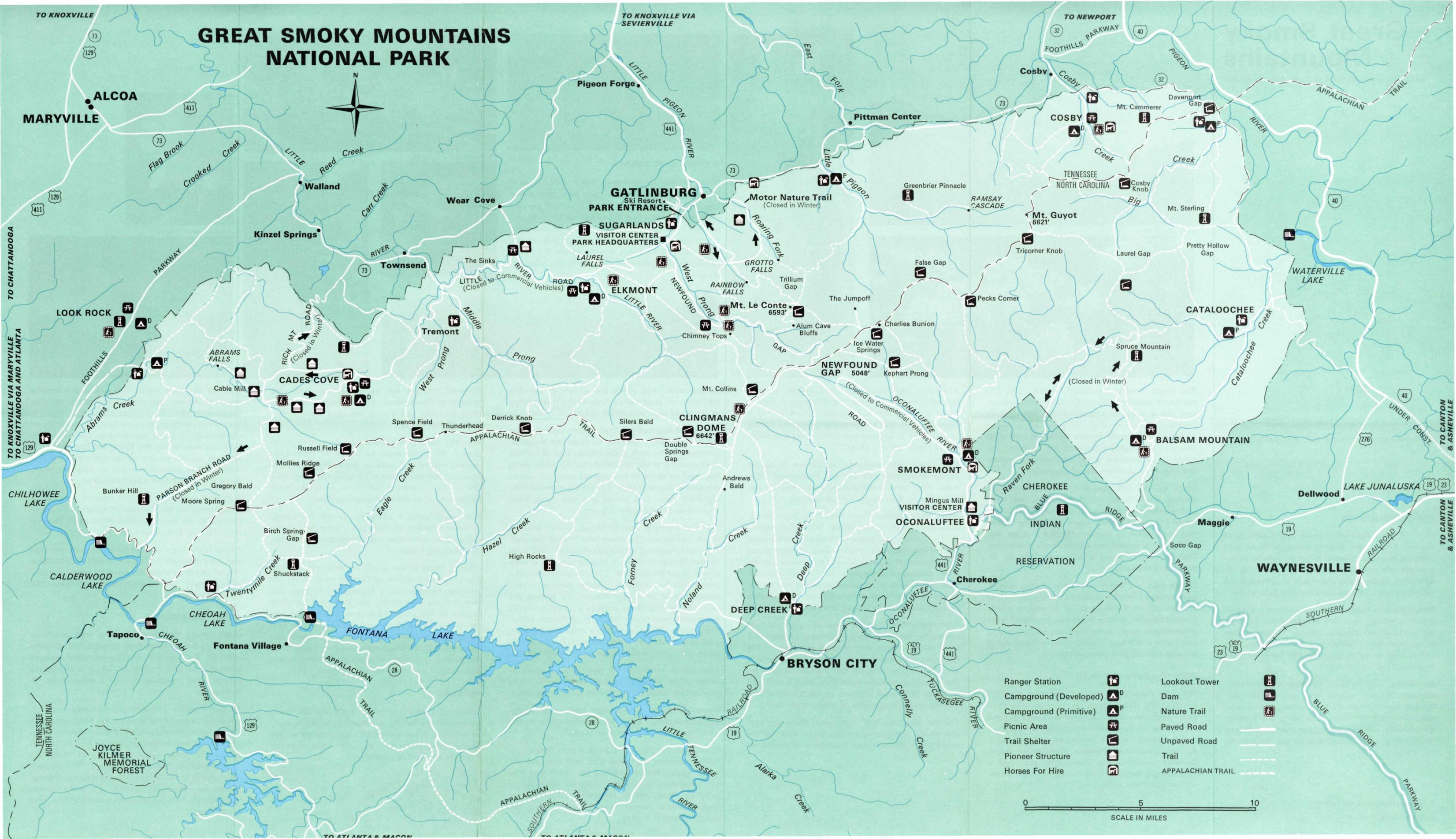
ACCOMMODATIONS

Most of the neighboring cities and towns have modern hotels and motels, gasoline, food, and camping supplies. Several privately owned campgrounds are operated outside the park. For information, write to the chambers of commerce of nearby towns in North Carolina and Tennessee.

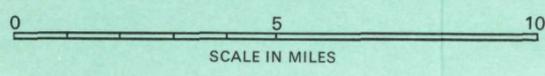
With a modern lodge and 300 furnished cottages, Fontana Village, near the southwestern edge of the park, offers boating, hiking, fishing, swimming, horseback riding, and nature walks. For information write to Government Services, Inc., Fontana Dam, NC 28733.

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

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK



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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 | | Trail | |
| Horses For Hire | | APPALACHIAN TRAIL | |



TO KNOXVILLE
TO MARYVILLE
ALCOA
MARYVILLE

TO KNOXVILLE VIA SEVIERVILLE

TO NEWPORT

TO KNOXVILLE VIA MARYVILLE
TO CHATTANOOGA AND ATLANTA

TO CANTON & ASHEVILLE

TENNESSEE NORTH CAROLINA

TO ATLANTA & MASON