



SMOKIES

GUIDE

The Official Newspaper of Great Smoky
Mountains National Park
Summer 2016



BILL LEA PHOTO

Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail is a cross between a nature trail and a road—a scenic, steep, narrow, winding, but paved primitive roadway.

Backroads and Byways of the Great Smokies

During the peak summer season, many of the national park's main roads such as Cades Cove Loop and Newfound Gap will become busy and congested. Fortunately, this 800 square mile park offers a variety of backroads and off-the-beaten-path routes for those who long to escape the crowds.

Please see the map on pages 8-9 for more information on roads and destinations.

Heintooga Ridge & Balsam Mountain roads (16-F). Motorists can make a scenic 45-mile loop from downtown Cherokee and take in mile-high vistas as well as wildflower-rich forests and crystal clear mountain streams.

One-half mile north of Cherokee on U.S. 441, the Blue Ridge Parkway begins its 469-mile journey to Shenandoah National Park in Virginia.

Follow it for 11 miles to Wolf Laurel Gap, then turn onto the Heintooga Ridge Road. After nine gorgeous miles, it becomes the gravel Balsam Mountain Road for 13 miles before reverting to a paved road back to Cherokee.

From downtown Gatlinburg, visitors can drive a 10-mile loop along **Cherokee Orchard Road & Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail** (11-D). Just turn onto Historic Nature Trail—Airport Road at traffic light #8 on the main parkway and follow it into the national park. The entire road is paved, but steep, narrow, and winding. Highlights include wildlife, old-growth forests, historic buildings, and three trails to waterfalls.

The Foothills Parkway West (3-E) near Townsend offers loads of mountain views and a 0.5 mile hike to Look Rock observation tower.

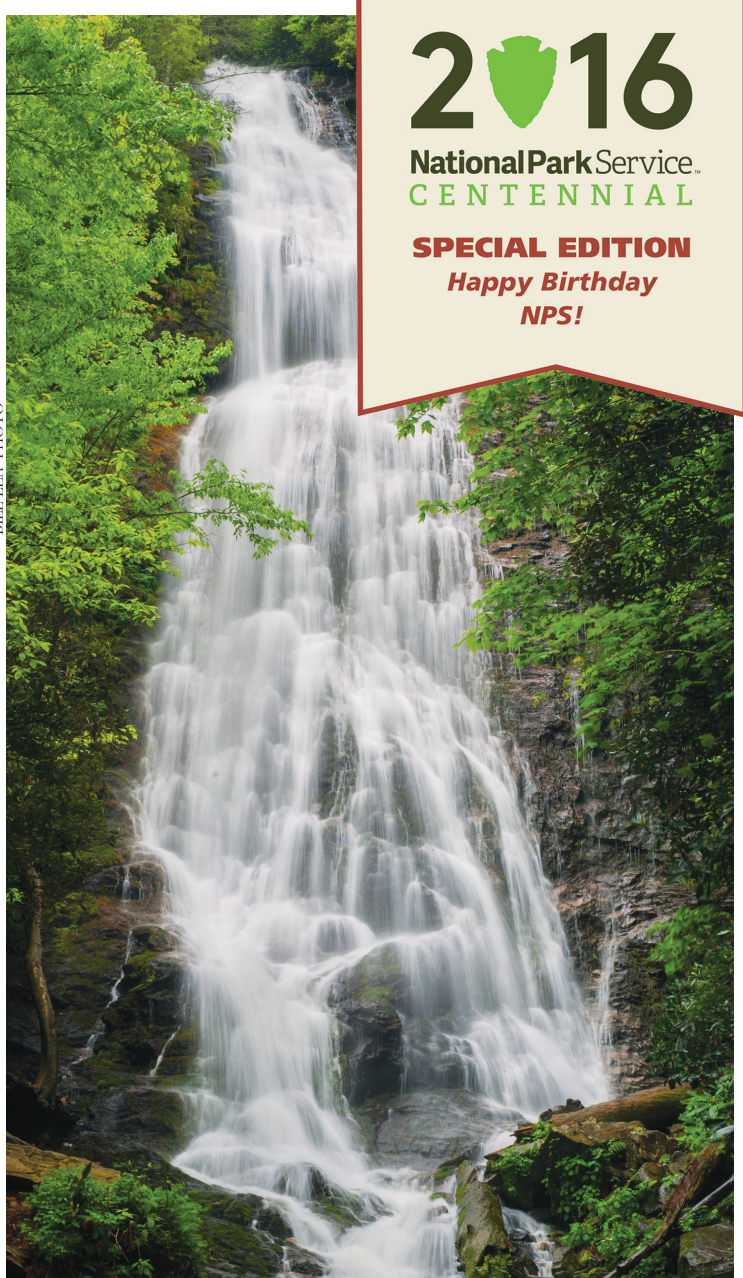


RHODODENDRON

Catawba (or purple) rhododendron blooms at the park's higher elevations during June. Rosebay (white) rhododendron blooms at the lower and mid-elevations throughout the summer. In all, ten species of "rhodo" are native to the Great Smoky Mountains.



Free, fun ranger-guided programs: pages 10-15



180-foot-tall Mingo Falls is a 5-mile drive from downtown Cherokee.

2016

National Park Service
CENTENNIAL

SPECIAL EDITION
Happy Birthday
NPS!

Waterfall Watching

Over 80 inches of annual rainfall drench the summits of the Great Smoky Mountains before plummeting more than a vertical mile to the valleys below. This combination of climate and geography make the Smokies a premier place for watching waterfalls.

Of the park's 40 or so major waterfalls, three are visible from a road: Meigs Falls and The Sinks along Little River Road and Place of a Thousand Drips on Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail. Most of the others require roundtrip hikes of between two and eight miles. Please see the map on pages 8-9 for more information.

- Three Waterfalls Loop (12-I) starts from Deep Creek Trailhead near Bryson City and packs three waterfalls into a 2.4 mile moderate hike.
- The moderate 4-mile

roundtrip hike to Mouse Creek Falls (18-C) starts at the Big Creek Trailhead located 3.4 miles from Interstate 40.

- Mingo Falls (15-G) is just outside the national park near the town of Cherokee. Follow Big Cove Road 5 miles from downtown. The short trail to the falls is very steep.

- Hen Wallow Falls (16-B) is located along Gabes Mountain Trail which starts near Cosby Campground. The moderate hike is 4.2 miles roundtrip.

- Cataract Falls (10-D) is an easy 0.4 mile roundtrip hike that starts from Sugarlands Visitor Center.

- The strenuous 8-mile roundtrip hike to Ramsey Cascades (14-C) begins in the Greenbrier area of the park outside Gatlinburg. Allow at least six hours to complete this hike.



smokies trip planner

to order maps and guides: www.SmokiesInformation.org

smokies guide

Smokies Guide is produced four times per year by Great Smoky Mountains Association and Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Publication dates are roughly as follows:

SPRING: March 15

SUMMER: June 1

AUTUMN: September 1

WINTER: December 1

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BILL LEA PHOTO



Nine campgrounds will be open in the national park this year.

camping in the the national park

The National Park Service maintains developed campgrounds at nine locations in the park. There are no showers or hookups other than circuits for special medical uses at Cades Cove, Elkmont, and Smokemont.

Campsites at Elkmont, Smokemont, Cataloochee, Cosby, and Cades Cove may be reserved. For reservations call 1-877-444-6777 or contact www.recreation.gov. Sites may be reserved up to six months in advance. Reservations are required at Cataloochee Campground. Other park campgrounds are first-come, first-served.

Site occupancy is limited to six people and two vehicles (a trailer = 1 vehicle). The maximum stay is 14 days.

Special camping sites for large groups are available seasonally at Big Creek, Cades Cove, Cataloochee, Cosby, Deep Creek, Elkmont, and Smokemont. Group sites must be reserved. Call 1-877-444-6777 or contact www.recreation.gov. Group sites may be reserved up to one year in advance.

The list below shows number of sites, elevations, fees, approximate 2016 operation dates, and maximum RV lengths. **Dates are subject to change.** Visit www.nps.gov/grsm for current information.

ABRAMS CREEK 16 sites, elev. 1,125', \$14, open May 27-Oct. 10, 12' trailers
BALSAM MOUNTAIN 46 sites, elev. 5,310', \$14, open May 27-Oct. 10, 30' RVs
BIG CREEK 12 sites, elev. 1,700', \$14, open April 8-Oct. 31, tents only
CADES COVE 159 sites, elev. 1,807', \$17-\$20, open year-round, 35'-40' RVs
CATALOOCHEE 27 sites, elev. 2,610', \$20, open March 25-Oct. 31, **reservations required**, 31' RVs
COSBY 157 sites, elev. 2,459', \$14, April 8-Oct. 31, 25' RVs
DEEP CREEK 92 sites, elev. 1,800', \$17, open April 8-Oct. 31, 26' RVs
ELKMONT 220 sites, elev. 2,150', \$17-\$23, open March 11-Nov. 27, 32'-35' RVs
LOOK ROCK *Closed*
SMOKEMONT 142 sites, elev. 2,198', \$17-\$20, open year-round, 35'-40' RVs

accommodations

LeConte Lodge (accessible by trail only) provides the only lodging in the park. Call (865) 429-5704.

For information on lodging outside the park:
Bryson City 1-800-867-9246
Cherokee 1-828-788-0034
Fontana 1-800-849-2258
Gatlinburg 1-800-588-1817
Maggie Valley 1-800-624-4431
Pigeon Forge 1-855-716-6199
Sevierville 1-888-889-7415
Townsend 1-800-525-6834

pets in the park

Pets are allowed in frontcountry campgrounds and beside roads as long as they are restrained at all times. Pets are not allowed on park trails, except for the Gatlinburg and Oconaluftee River trails. Dogs on these trails must be leashed.

opportunities

SUMMER CAMPS AT TREMONT: gsmit.org; (865) 448-6709. Educational programs from the SMOKY MOUNTAIN FIELD SCHOOL: smfs.utk.edu; (865) 974-0150.

Join GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION at SmokiesInformation.org; 1-888-898-9102
Support the park with FRIENDS: friendsofthesmokies.org; 1-800-845-5665.

special events

June 18
Womens Work at Oconaluftee Mountain Farm Museum

September 9-11
Music of the Mountains
Sugarlands Visitor Center

September 17
Mountain Life Festival
Mountain Farm Museum

picnic areas

Please see pages 8-9 for locations of picnic areas. All have charcoal grills for cooking. Look Rock picnic area will not open this year.

visitor centers

Summer hours of operation for park visitor centers are; Oconaluftee & Sugarlands, 8-7:30. Cades Cove, 9-7:30. Clingmans Dome, 10-6.

other services

There are no gas stations, showers, or restaurants in the national park. Mt. LeConte Lodge is the only lodging.

MARY ANN KRESSIG PHOTO



Bicycle and pedestrian morning on Cades Cove Loop Road.

bicycling

Most park roads are too narrow and heavily traveled by automobiles for safe or enjoyable bicycling. However, Cades Cove Loop Road is an exception. This 11-mile, one-way, paved road provides bicyclists with excellent opportunities for viewing wildlife and historic sites.

Helmets are required for persons age 16 and under and are strongly recommended for all bicyclists.

From May 11-Sept. 21, on Wednesday and Saturday mornings from sunrise to 10:00 a.m., only bicycles and pedestrians are allowed on Cades Cove Loop Road. Bicycles may be rented at the Cades Cove Campground store.

park information

for additional information, visit www.nps.gov/grsm

Gatlinburg, TN elev. 1,462'			Mt. Le Conte elev. 6,593'		
AVG. HIGH	LOW	PRECIP.	AVG. HIGH	LOW	PRECIP.
Jan. 49°	27°	4.0"	36°	18°	6.7"
Feb. 53°	28°	4.1"	37°	19°	5.6"
March 62°	35°	5.5"	44°	25°	7.0"
April 71°	42°	4.5"	52°	31°	6.7"
May 77°	50°	5.7"	58°	39°	8.0"
June 82°	58°	5.8"	64°	47°	8.7"
July 85°	62°	6.3"	67°	50°	9.0"
Aug. 84°	61°	5.3"	67°	49°	7.6"
Sept. 79°	55°	4.7"	62°	44°	7.2"
Oct. 70°	43°	2.9"	55°	35°	4.7"
Nov. 60°	34°	3.4"	46°	27°	6.8"
Dec. 51°	28°	4.6"	38°	20°	6.4"

The above temperature and precipitation averages are based on data for the last 20 years. Temperatures are in degrees fahrenheit. An average of over 84" (7 feet) of precipitation falls on the higher elevations of the Smokies. On Mt. Le Conte, an average of 82.8" of snow falls per year.

horse riding

Horseback riding is generally available from early March through November. Rates are \$30 per hour. Most stables have maximum rider weight limits of 225 or 250 pounds and age restrictions for children. Please call the stables below or stop at a visitor center for detailed information.

CADES COVE (865) 448-9009
cadescovestables.com
SMOKEMONT (828) 497-2373
smokemontridingstables.com
SMOKY MTN (865) 436-5634
smokymountainridingstables.com
SUGARLANDS (865) 436-3535
sugarlandsridingstables.com

Hayrides and carriage rides (\$12 per person) are available from Cades Cove Riding Stable. Wagon rides (\$10 per person) are offered at Smokemont. Souvenir photos, tee-shirts, hats, and ice may be available. Soft drink vending is available.

The Park Service operates horse camps at Cades Cove, Big Creek, Cataloochee, and Round Bottom. Call 877-444-6777 or visit www.Recreation.gov for reservations.

MARY ANN KRESSIG PHOTO



Fishing for brook trout is now allowed in park streams.

fishing

Fishing is permitted year-round in the park, but a Tennessee or North Carolina fishing license is required. Either state license is valid throughout the park and no trout stamp is required. A special permit is required for the Cherokee Reservation and Gatlinburg. Licenses are available in nearby towns. Fishing with bait is prohibited.

A free fishing map with information about park streams and a complete list of all park fishing regulations is available at park visitor centers.

DRIVING DISTANCES & ESTIMATED TIMES

Cherokee, NC to:

Gatlinburg: 34 miles (1 hour)
Cades Cove: 57 miles (2 hours)
Newfound Gap: 18 miles
(½ hour)
Clingmans Dome:
25 miles (¾ hour)
Cataloochee: 39 miles
(1½ hours)
Deep Creek: 14 miles (½ hour)

Gatlinburg, TN to:

Cherokee: 34 miles (1 hour)
Cades Cove: 27 miles (1 hour)
Newfound Gap: 16 miles
(½ hour)
Clingmans Dome:
23 miles (¾ hour)
Cataloochee: 65 miles (2 hours)
Greenbrier Cove: 6 miles
(¼ hour)
Deep Creek:
48 miles (1½ hours)

Townsend, TN to:

Cades Cove: 9 miles (¼ hour)
Newfound Gap: 34 miles
(1¼ hours)
Gatlinburg: 22 miles (¾ hour)
Cherokee: 52 miles (1½ hours)
Look Rock: 18 miles (½ hour)
Cataloochee:
87 miles (2¼ hours)

JIM MOWBRAY PHOTO



Primitive backcountry shelters like this one at Double Springs Gap are located along the Appalachian Trail and near the summit of Mt. Le Conte. Reservations are required for all campers in the backcountry.

Backcountry Camping in the Smokies

Camping at a backcountry campsite or shelter can be an exciting adventure for persons properly equipped and informed. To facilitate this activity, the National Park Service maintains over 800 miles of trails and more than 100 backcountry campsites and shelters throughout the park. One of the greatest challenges for backcountry campers is deciding where to go. Here are some tools to help.

1. Go online to view the park's official trail map (www.nps.gov/grsm/plan-yourvisit/maps.htm), which shows all park trails, campsites, and shelters. Park rules and regulations are also listed here. If you wish, you can purchase the printed version of the trail map for \$1 by stopping at any park visitor center or calling (865) 436-7318 x226 or shopping online at www.SmokiesInformation.org.
2. Call or stop by the park's backcountry office (open every day from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.). The office is located in Sugarlands Visitor Center, two miles south of Gatlinburg on Newfound Gap Road (U.S.

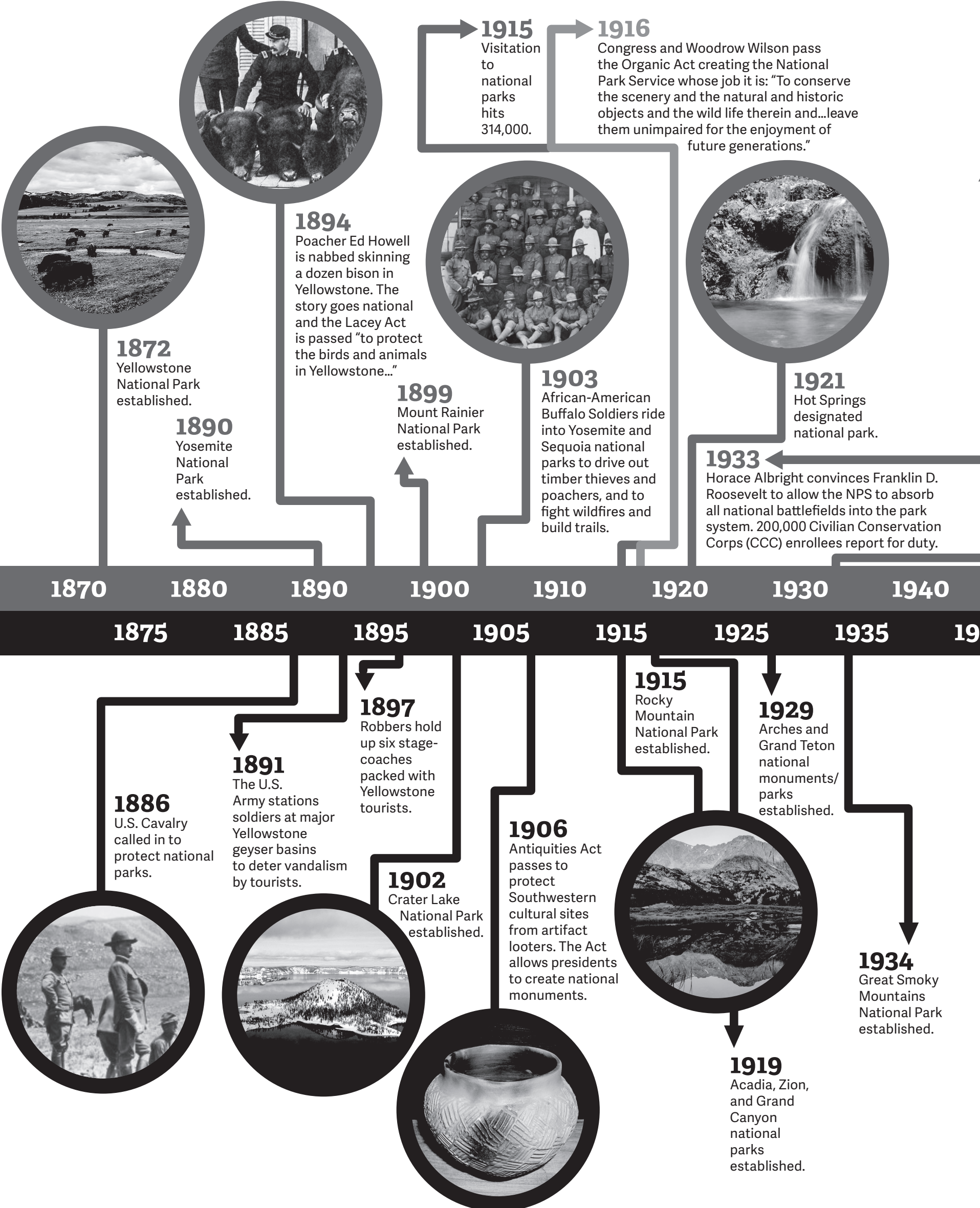
441). (865) 436-1297.

3. Make your reservation through the backcountry office at Sugarlands Visitor Center (by phone or in person) or online at www.smokiespermits.nps.gov.

Reservations and permits are required for all overnight stays in the backcountry. The cost is \$4 per person per night. Reservations may be made up to 30 days in advance.

Rangers will need to rescue over 100 people in the backcountry this year. If you don't want to be one of them:

- **Ditch the sandals.** Sturdy hiking boots are the best way to prevent a lower leg injury.
- **Know when the sun sets.** Many hikes turn into rescues because people get caught out on trails after dark without flashlights or headlamps.
- **Know your limits.** Don't plan a 15-mile hike unless you are in spectacular physical condition and have done such hikes in mountain terrain recently.
- **Prepare for the weather.** These mountains are green because it rains a whole lot here. Always carry rain gear. Stay dry.



1872
Yellowstone National Park established.



1894
Poacher Ed Howell is nabbed skinning a dozen bison in Yellowstone. The story goes national and the Lacey Act is passed "to protect the birds and animals in Yellowstone..."

1890
Yosemite National Park established.



1903
African-American Buffalo Soldiers ride into Yosemite and Sequoia national parks to drive out timber thieves and poachers, and to fight wildfires and build trails.

1899
Mount Rainier National Park established.



1921
Hot Springs designated national park.

1933
Horace Albright convinces Franklin D. Roosevelt to allow the NPS to absorb all national battlefields into the park system. 200,000 Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) enrollees report for duty.



1886
U.S. Cavalry called in to protect national parks.

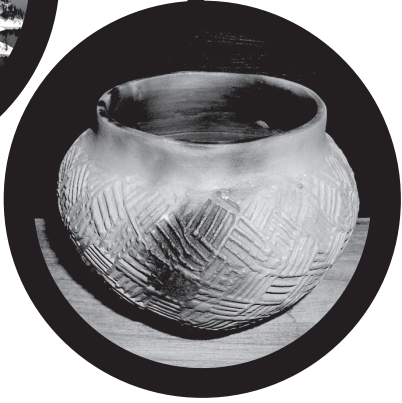


1902
Crater Lake National Park established.

1897
Robbers hold up six stage-coaches packed with Yellowstone tourists.

1891
The U.S. Army stations soldiers at major Yellowstone geyser basins to deter vandalism by tourists.

1906
Antiquities Act passes to protect Southwestern cultural sites from artifact looters. The Act allows presidents to create national monuments.



1915
Rocky Mountain National Park established.

1929
Arches and Grand Teton national monuments/parks established.

1919
Acadia, Zion, and Grand Canyon national parks established.

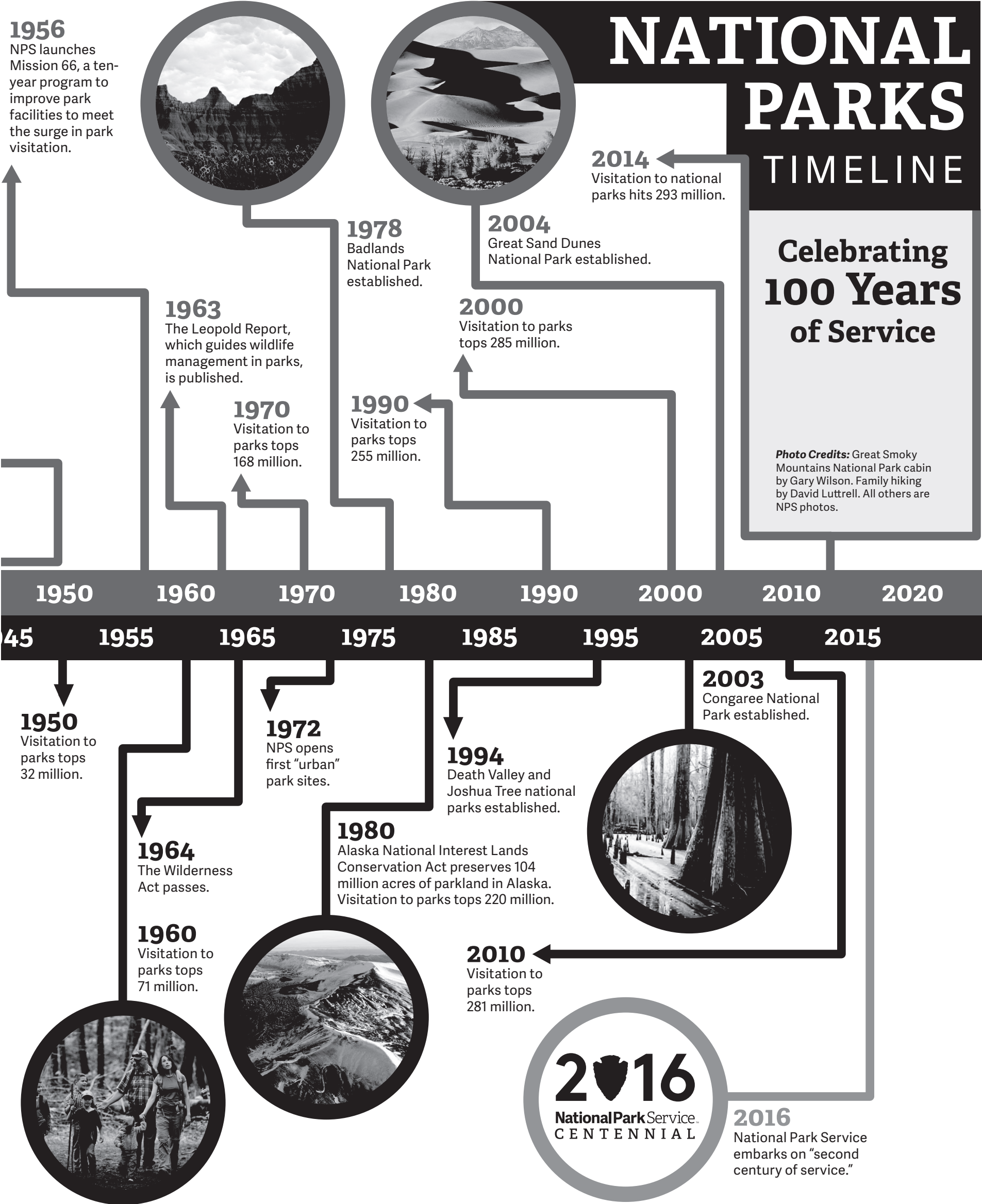
1934
Great Smoky Mountains National Park established.

NATIONAL PARKS

TIMELINE

Celebrating 100 Years of Service

Photo Credits: Great Smoky Mountains National Park cabin by Gary Wilson. Family hiking by David Luttrell. All others are NPS photos.



Q & A with the Superintendent

Cassius Cash, Superintendent of Great Smoky Mountains National Park



DAVID LUTTRELL PHOTO

The following goals have been officially adopted by the National Park Service to guide the agency and its partners and volunteers into 2016 and beyond.

1. Connect people to parks and help communities protect what is special to them.
2. Advance our educational mission based on core American values, historical and scientific scholarship, and unbiased translation of the complexities of the American experience.
3. Preserve America's special places and be a leader in extending the benefits of conservation across physical, social, political, and international boundaries.
4. Enhance professional and organizational excellence by adapting to the changing needs of visitors, communities, and partners.

Q: The National Park Service turns 100 years old in 2016. What does that mean to you?

A: If we don't create the next generation of national park users, advocates, and supporters, I think the work we've done in the first 100 years of the National Park Service will be in vain. You protect what you value. If you haven't visited parks and public lands in your formative years, you run the risk of not knowing or caring about them.

As I get older, I realize I want to be doing something that lasts beyond me. At this point in history, with the Park Service turning 100, I want to tell my daughters that I left the Smokies a better place than when I found it. There's a lot riding on this. I don't want to be the one to let this go.

Q: What does the Second Century of the National Park Service look like?

A: When the National Park Service was created, the country was 50 percent urban. Now it's 80 percent urban. The Park Service is a very traditional organization—and we honor those traditions. But we need to hand the NPS arrowhead over to the next generation and let each person define his or her own park experience.

We don't want to try too hard to define what we think a park experience should be. Our millennials are very different, their values are very different. They approach the outdoors a lot differently.

That's why "Find Your Park" is the theme of our Centennial. It's an individual thing.

We're looking at this as the right time to reach out to audiences that haven't traditionally been park visitors, or park employees, for that matter.

Q: How are you celebrating the Centennial in the Smokies?

A: We are hosting some fun events like *Smokies Centennial Challenge: Hike 100* where participants log their miles and earn a special reward. We especially want to involve families from nearby urban areas.

FIND YOUR PARK

And I am hiking 100 miles on park trails myself, split between the North Carolina and Tennessee sides of the park.

We've also worked with our park partners on some beautiful publications commemorating the first 100 years. Plus we've developed a lot of commemorative merchandise that is now featured in the visitor center stores and will benefit the Smokies and the whole park system.

BILL LEA PHOTO



Many Americans today grow up in cities and have only a limited exposure to wild places like the Great Smoky Mountains. Superintendent Cash and the National Park Service are especially enthusiastic about offering urban youth the opportunity to explore the great outdoors.



NPS PHOTO

Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming.

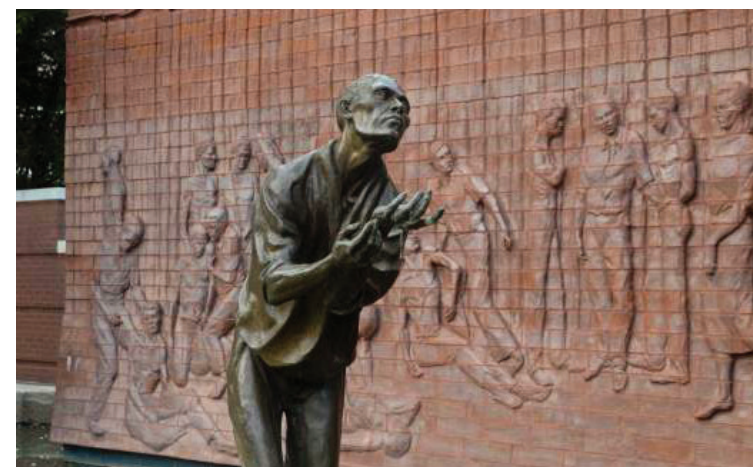
Across our nation, from northern Alaska to the Virgin Islands, from Acadia to Zion, the National Park Service is responsible for protecting 411* of America's most beautiful natural areas and most significant historic places. Here is a sampler of the diversity of public lands that have been set aside and protected by the National Park Service "for the benefit and enjoyment of the people."

NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARKS (49)

Example: Cumberland Gap, Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia. Starting around 1775, this mountain pass became the primary route for American settlers moving west into Kentucky.

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES (78)

Example: Andersonville, Georgia. The Camp



NPS PHOTO

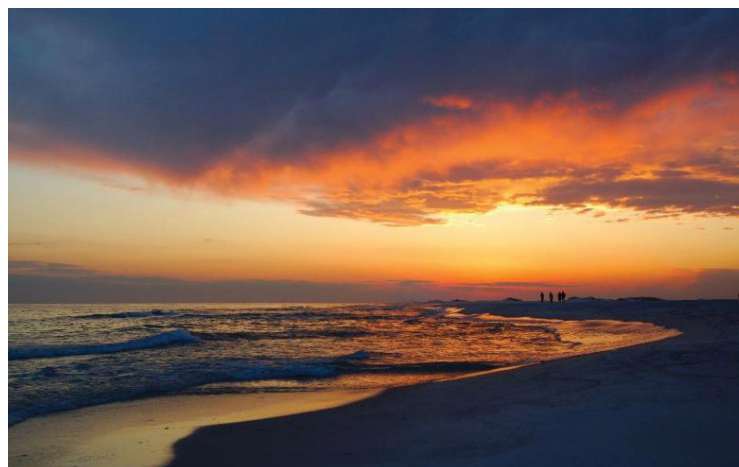
The commemorative courtyard, entitled "The Price of Freedom Fully Paid" serves as a memorial to all prisoners of war at Andersonville National Historic Site.

NATIONAL PARKS (59)

Example: Grand Teton, Wyoming. Preserves the magnificent Grand Teton mountain range and the wildlife-rich valley of Jackson Hole.

Sumter military prison at Andersonville was one of the largest Confederate military prisons during the Civil War.

NATIONAL HISTORIC AND SCENIC TRAILS (3)



NPS PHOTO

Sunset at Fort Pickens in Gulf Islands National Seashore.

constructed by the Sinagua, a pre-Columbian cultural group that lived in Walnut Canyon from about 1100 to 1250 CE.

NATIONAL PARKWAYS (4)

Example: Natchez Trace, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee. Commemorates the historic Old Natchez Trace, an ancient buffalo trail used by Native Americans and 18th century European-Americans for commerce.

NATIONAL PRESERVES (19)

Example: Little River Canyon, Alabama. This verdant, biologically-diverse area includes one of the deepest canyons in the eastern U.S.

NATIONAL RECREATION AREA (18)

Example: Chattahoochee River, Georgia. This 48-mile stretch of river offers public recreation and access to historic sites.

NATIONAL RIVER (15)

Example: Big South Fork, Kentucky, Tennessee. The Big South Fork of the Cumberland River region contains one of the highest concentrations of natural bridges in the eastern U.S.

NATIONAL SEASHORE (10)

Example: Gulf Islands, Florida, Mississippi. Offers recreation opportunities and preserves natural and historic resources along the Gulf of Mexico barrier islands.

NATIONAL MALL AND MEMORIAL PARKS (20)

Example: Korean War Veterans Memorial, Washington, D.C. Commemorates those who served in the Korean War.

**As of summer, 2016. Not all categories of parks are listed here.*



NPS PHOTO

Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Example: Appalachian Trail, Georgia to Maine. 2,180 miles of scenic foot trail along the crest of the Appalachian Mountains.

NATIONAL BATTLEFIELDS (11)

Example: Moores Creek Park, North Carolina. Commemorates the 1776 victory by a thousand Patriots over about eight hundred Loyalists at the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge.

NATIONAL LAKESHORES (4)

Example: Sleeping Bear Dunes, Michigan. Sunny beaches and sky-high dunes. Cool forests and inland lakes. Picturesque farmsteads and a historic maritime village.

NATIONAL MEMORIALS (30)

Example: Flight 93, Pennsylvania. Commemorates the site of the crash of United Airlines Flight 93, which was hijacked in the September 11 attacks.

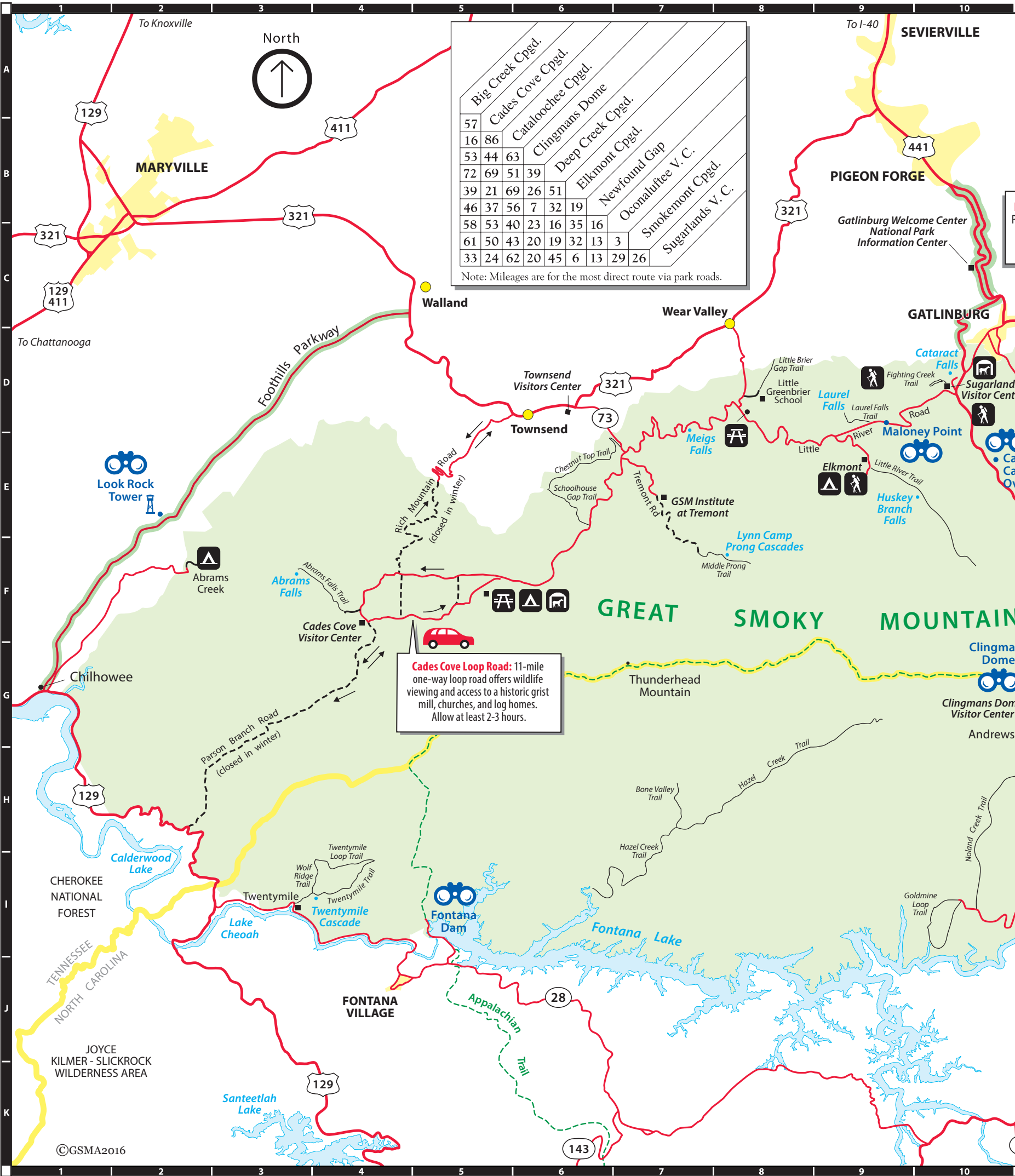
NATIONAL MILITARY PARK (9)

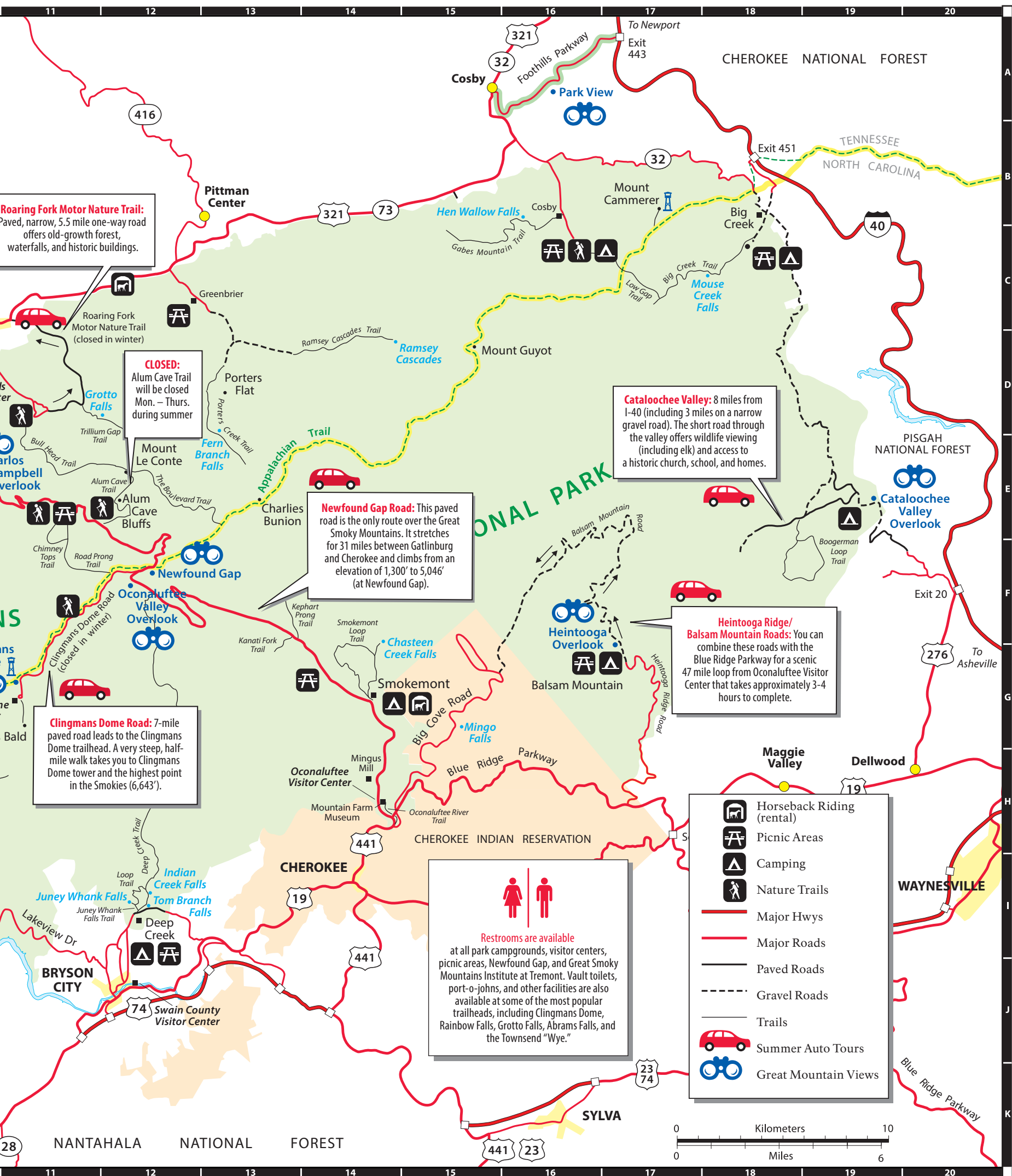
Example: Kings Mountain, North Carolina. Commemorates the Battle of Kings Mountain, a pivotal victory by American Patriots over American Loyalists during the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War.

NATIONAL MONUMENTS (80)

Example: Walnut Canyon, Arizona. Includes 25 cliff dwelling rooms

GREAT SUMMER DRIVING TOURS AND VIEWS IN THE SMOKIES





Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail:
Paved, narrow, 5.5 mile one-way road
offers old-growth forest,
waterfalls, and historic buildings.

CLOSED:
Alum Cave Trail
will be closed
Mon. - Thurs.
during summer

Newfound Gap Road: This paved
road is the only route over the Great
Smoky Mountains. It stretches
for 31 miles between Gatlinburg
and Cherokee and climbs from an
elevation of 1,300' to 5,046'
(at Newfound Gap).

Cataloochee Valley: 8 miles from
I-40 (including 3 miles on a narrow
gravel road). The short road through
the valley offers wildlife viewing
(including elk) and access to
a historic church, school, and homes.

**Heintooga Ridge/
Balsam Mountain Roads:** You can
combine these roads with the
Blue Ridge Parkway for a scenic
47 mile loop from Oconaluftee Visitor
Center that takes approximately 3-4
hours to complete.

Clingmans Dome Road: 7-mile
paved road leads to the Clingmans
Dome trailhead. A very steep, half-
mile walk takes you to Clingmans
Dome tower and the highest point
in the Smokies (6,643').

Restrooms are available
at all park campgrounds, visitor centers,
picnic areas, Newfound Gap, and Great Smoky
Mountains Institute at Tremont. Vault toilets,
port-o-johns, and other facilities are also
available at some of the most popular
trailheads, including Clingmans Dome,
Rainbow Falls, Grotto Falls, Abrams Falls, and
the Townsend "Wye."

- Horseback Riding (rental)
- Picnic Areas
- Camping
- Nature Trails
- Major Hwys
- Major Roads
- Paved Roads
- Gravel Roads
- Trails
- Summer Auto Tours
- Great Mountain Views

free, fun things to do

SUGARLANDS/ELKMONT AREA	MEETING LOCATION	DURATION	DIFFICULTY
Porters Creek Hike: Enjoy this walk along beautiful Porters Creek to explore the Smokies’ history, discover wildflowers, or learn about the role hikers played in the preservation of the park.	Porters Creek Trailhead	2 hours	Easy
Islands in the Sky: The high elevation forest of the Smokies is one of the most interesting and endangered ecosystems in the Eastern US. Come to learn more about makes this beautiful area unique.	Forney Ridge Trailhead	1 hour	Moderate
A Walk in the Woods: Do you have a few minutes? Get away from the hustle and bustle by taking an easy stroll and discover stories of history and nature along this scenic, wooded trail.	Sugarlands Visitor Center	1.5 hours	Easy
Junior Ranger: Geology Rocks!: Amaze your friends with newfound knowledge about how these mountains were born and how they have changed over time.	Clingmans Dome Visitor Center	1 hour	Easy
Highland Homeland: Sit a spell on the front porch of the Ogle cabin and learn about the families who once lived here. Demonstrations and activities will vary throughout the season.	Noah Bud Ogle Cabin	1.5 hours	Easy
A Wondrous Diversity of Life: Come to learn more about reintroduced species, non-native insects, slimy salamanders or the secret lives of bears. Topics vary, but you’re sure to be amazed by the Smokies biodiversity.	Cosby Nature Trail	45 minutes	Easy
Junior Ranger: Creature Feature: Did you know that thousands and thousands of different kinds of plants and animals live in the Smokies? Join a ranger to learn about some of the creatures that live here during this “Ranger’s Choice” style program.	Sugarlands Visitor Center	30 minutes	Easy
Slimy Salamanders: Join a Ranger to explore the damp, dark world of the park’s most popular amphibian. Be prepared to get a little wet and even a little dirty as we search for this slimy creature. Closed-toed shoes recommended.	Chimneys Picnic Area near Cove Hardwood Nature Trail	1 hour	Easy
Junior Ranger: Creepy Critters: Join a ranger on this adventure into the dark and mysterious world of bugs and macro-invertebrates. Get up close and personal with the use of equipment such as “sucky-uppy-things,” leaf litter boxes, and magnifying glasses.	Sugarlands Visitor Center	1 hour	Easy
Old Town of Elkmont: Take an afternoon stroll with a ranger and learn about Elkmont when it was a turn-of-the-century logging boomtown.	Elkmont Ranger Station	2 hours	Easy
Junior Ranger: Yucky Animal Stuff: Want to know some gross stuff about animals? Check out some skulls, smells and scat. Learn some disgusting facts. Join a ranger for this fun and entertaining program.	Sugarlands Visitor Center	45 minutes	Easy
Evening Campfire: Join a ranger for a National Park tradition—the evening campfire program. Topics vary, but you’re guaranteed to learn something new about the Great Smoky Mountains.	Cosby Campground	1 hour	Easy
Evening Campfire: Join a ranger for a National Park tradition—the evening campfire program. Topics vary, but you’re guaranteed to learn something new about the Great Smoky Mountains.	Elkmont Campground	1 hour	Easy
METCALF BOTTOMS AREA			
Junior Ranger: School Days at Little Greenbrier: Go back in time to discover what it was like to live in a mountain community and go to school in a one-room schoolhouse. Fun for all ages, and great for Junior Rangers. Please arrive 15 minutes before program start; space is limited.	Little Greenbrier School	1.5 hours	Easy
Junior Ranger: Stream Splashers: Roll up your pants and wade through a mountain stream to look for mayflies, stoneflies, dragonflies, and other aquatic critters. Be prepared to get wet. Closed-toed river shoes recommended.	Metcalf Bottom Picnic Area	1 – 1.5 hours	Easy
CADES COVE AREA			
Junior Ranger Program: Explore Cades Cove: Join a park ranger for a hands-on exploration of the Smokies. Participation counts towards earning a Junior Ranger badge and certificate.	Cades Cove Visitor Center	45 minutes	Easy
WILD by Design: A talk and hands-on demonstration about the wild things in the park.	Cades Cove Visitor Center/Cable Mill Area	30 minutes	Easy
			

**PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES IN GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS
NATIONAL PARK—JUNE 12 – AUGUST 13, 2016 ONLY**

ACCESSIBLE	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.	SUN.	SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS
No		9:30 A.M.		9:30 A.M.				
No	10:30 A.M.		10:30 A.M.		1:00 P.M.	1:00 P.M.		
No	11:00 A.M.	11:00 A.M.	11:00 A.M.	11:00 A.M.	11:00 A.M.	11:00 A.M.	11:00 A.M.	
Yes			1:00 P.M.				1:00 P.M.	
No		1:30 P.M.		1:30 P.M.				
No						2:00 P.M.		
Yes	2:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M.	
No	2:00 P.M.		2:00 P.M.					Limited to 25 participants. Call (865) 436-1291 up to 4 days in advance to make reservations.
No		3:00 P.M.						
No							3:00 P.M.	
Yes		10:00 A.M.						
Yes						*		*Check at Sugarlands VC or Campground Office
Yes					*	*		*Check at Sugarlands VC or Campground Office
No		11:00 A.M. & 2:00 P.M.						
No				1:00 P.M.				
Yes			1:00 P.M.	1:00 P.M.	1:00 P.M.	1:00 P.M.	1:00 P.M.	
Yes			2:30 P.M.			2:30 P.M.	2:30 P.M.	



CADES COVE AREA (CONT.)	MEETING LOCATION	DURATION	DIFFICULTY
Junior Ranger Program: Blacksmithing: Join a ranger in the blacksmith shop to learn about blacksmithing. Other Junior Ranger programs will be going on simultaneously for younger kids. Closed-toed shoes required.	Cades Cove Visitor Center	45 minutes	Easy
Junior Ranger: Animal Olympics: This interactive, fun activity compares your abilities to the animals of the park.	Cades Cove Visitor Center	45 minutes	Easy
Junior Ranger Program: Stream Splashers: Roll up your pants and wade through a mountain stream to look for aquatic critters. Be prepared to get wet. Closed-toed shoes that can get wet are recommended.	Sugarlands Visitor Center	45 minutes	Easy
Cades Cove Evening Hayride: Join a ranger for an open-air evening hayride viewing wild-life and discovering the diversity of life in the Cove. Hayrides can fill up quickly, first-come, first-serve for this program.	Cades Cove Riding Stables	2 hours	Easy
Evening Program: Most Dangerous: Come learn about the most dangerous animals in the park and how you should behave when you meet them in this entertaining and humorous program.	Cades Cove Amphitheater	1 hour	Easy
Cades Cove ‘Early Bird’ Morning Hayride: Join a park ranger for a morning open-air hayride viewing wildlife and discovering the diversity of life in the Cove. Hayrides can fill up quickly. First come, first serve for this program.	Cades Cove Riding Stables	2 hours	Easy
Cades Cove Night Hike: Join a park ranger for an evening walk discovering the night crea-tures of the Cove. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Bring a flashlight.	Cades Cove Orientation Shelter at the Entrance to the Loop Road	1.5 hours	Easy

OCONALUFTEE AREA

Andrews Bald Hike for Families: Join a ranger on a 3.6 mile round trip hike to the most accessible of the Smokies’ grassy balds to learn more about this unique high elevation feature. Leisurely hike back to the parking lot on your own after reaching the bald. Sturdy footwear, a snack, and water recommended.	Forney Ridge Trailhead at Clingmans Dome	3 hours	Moderate (600 foot elevation change)
Down on the Farm: Walk down to the Mountain Farm Museum and see what pastime activ-ities settlers may have been engaged in such as fence building, woodworking, or gardening. Activi-ties vary.	Mountain Farm Museum	Ongoing 1.5 hours	Easy
Junior Ranger: Stream Splashers: Roll up your pants and wade through a mountain stream to look for mayflies, stoneflies, dragonflies, and other aquatic critters.	Oconaluftee River adjacent to Mountain Farm Museum	1.5 hours	Easy
Junior Ranger: Smoky Mountain Elk: It’s all about connection and balance in nature to ensure survival for elk and other species living together in an ecosystem. Learn about the history of the elk through “show and tell” activities. Then stay and watch the elk come into in the fields!	Palmer House, Cataloochee Valley	45 minutes	Easy
Junior Ranger: Porch Program: Join a ranger on the porch of the Oconaluftee Visitor Cen-ter to discover what makes Great Smoky Mountains National Park so special. Topics vary so feel free to come more than once!	Oconaluftee Visitor Center Porch	45 minutes	Easy
Mammal Mania!: Otters and rabbits and bears, Oh my! Join a ranger for a hands-on discovery of mammals in the park.	Oconaluftee Visitor Center Porch	30 minutes	Easy
Junior Ranger: Smokemont Night Hike: Ever wonder what goes “grrr” in the night? What creatures are out there moving under the cover of darkness? Take a walk on the dark side with a ranger and learn about some of the mysteries and wonders found only after the sun goes down.	Bradley Fork Trailhead, D-Loop Smokemont Campground	1 hour	Easy
Junior Ranger: Blacksmithing: Learn a new skill. Be a blacksmith and create your own item to take home. Limited to ages 10-12. Other Junior Ranger programs will be going on simultane-ously for younger kids.	Mountain Farm Museum	30 minutes	Easy
Junior Ranger: Batteries Not Included: What kind of toys did kids play with in the “old days?” Join a ranger to discover (or remember!) how kids were entertained before video games and iPods. You’ll be able to take home a “buzz button” of your very own.	Mountain Farm Museum	30 minutes	Easy
Longing for the “Good Ol’ Days”: You’ve heard it before but was it really the “good ol’ days?” Join a ranger for a walk on the Mountain Farm Museum and learn about the “new comers” who settled here and farmed this land.	Mountain Farm Museum	45 minutes	Easy

ACCESSIBLE	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.	SUN.	SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS
No	10:30 A.M. 11:30 A.M. 1 P.M., 2 P.M. Starting June 20							Limited to youth 8 – 12 years old. Group size limited to 8 per program.
Yes	10:30 A.M. & 1:00 P.M.							
No		1:00 P.M.						
Yes		5:00 P.M.	5:00 P.M.		5:00 P.M.			Hayride Fee: \$14.00/person
Yes			7:30 P.M.					
Yes				8:00 A.M.				Fee: \$14.00/person
No				9:00 P.M.				
No							9:30 A.M. starting June 19	
Yes							2:00 P.M.	
No			1:00 P.M. starting June 22				5:00 P.M. starting June 19	Be prepared to get wet. Closed-toed shoes recommended.
Yes							5:30 P.M.	
Yes	2:00 P.M. starting June 20				10:00 A.M. starting June 24			
Yes	4:00 P.M. starting June 20							
No	8:45 P.M. starting June 20					8:45 P.M. starting June 25		Limited to 25 participants. Call (828) 497-1904 up to four days in advance to make reservations.
No		10:00 A.M. 10:30 A.M. 11:00 A.M. 11:30 A.M. starting June 21						
Yes		10:00 A.M. 10:30 A.M. 11:00 A.M. 11:30 A.M.						All ages welcome.
Yes		2:00 P.M.	12:00 PM starting June 22					

OCONALUFTEE AREA (CONT.)	MEETING LOCATION	DURATION	DIFFICULTY
Junior Ranger: Creepy Critters: Join a ranger on this adventure into the dark and mysterious world of bugs and macro-invertebrates. Get up close and personal with the use of equipment such as “sucky-uppy-things,” leaf litter boxes, and magnifying glasses.	Mingus Creek Trail	1 hour	Easy
Junior Ranger: Slimy Salamanders: Join a ranger to explore the damp, dark world of the park’s most popular amphibian. Be prepared to get a little wet and even a little dirty as we search for this slimy creature. Closed-toed shoes recommended.	Mingus Creek Trail	1 hour	Easy
Kephart Prong Hike: Join a ranger to explore the remains of an old logging camp, which later became a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp. Discover what signs are still visible and what life was like.	Kephart Prong Trailhead	2 hours	Easy to moderate
Junior Ranger: River Ramble: Relax and cool off along a mountain stream. This easy walk with a Ranger offers you an amazing opportunity to explore the Smokies only minutes from your car.	Oconaluftee River Trailhead	1 hour	Easy
Smokemont Evening Campfire Program: Charismatic Megafauna! What is it? Where can I find it? Join a Ranger by the campfire to discover what you might see in the park!	Smokemont Campground between C-Loop and D-Loop	1 hour	Easy
Family Hike: Where the Waters Sing!: Pack a snack and water and join a Ranger on a moderate 3-mile round-trip hike along side Bradley Fork Trail to Chasteen Creek Falls.	Bradley Fork Trailhead, D-Loop Smokemont Campground	3 hours	Moderate
Junior Ranger: Welcome Home!: After more than a century of absence, the elk have returned. Join a Ranger to hear the story of the return on the largest mammal in the Great Smoky Mountains.	Oconaluftee Tree Cookie Area near Mountain Farm Museum	30 minutes	Easy
Junior Ranger: Neighbors or Nuisances?: Join park staff on the porch to learn about some small animals found right here around the Mountain Farm Museum. As cute as they may be, you decide whether they are friend or foe!	Oconaluftee Visitor Center Porch	45 minutes	Easy

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Sugarlands Science: Join a scientist on the 3rd Friday of the month to learn about and engage in on-going scientific research happening inside Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Topics vary each month.	Sugarlands Visitor Center	2 hours	Easy
Shaped-Note Singing School: Singing schools in the mountains were scheduled when people were not occupied with their work. Usually held when the “literary” schools were adjourned. Singing schools taught the rudiments of music to the general population by the use of shaped notes (also known as Old Harp singing). Come and participate or just listen. Songbooks will be provided.	Little Greenbrier School	2 hours	Easy
Women’s Work Festival: Join Park Staff and Volunteers for a glimpse into the past roles that rural women held in the family and community. Come experience the similarities as well as the differences life presented more than a century ago. A variety of demonstrations will be ongoing throughout the day.	Mountain Farm Museum	Ongoing 6 hours	Easy
Back Porch Old-Time Music Jam: Bring an acoustic instrument and join in on this old-time jam. Or just sit back and enjoy the sights and sounds as others play traditional Appalachian music.	Oconaluftee Visitor Center Porch	2 hours	Easy
Blacksmith Demonstration: Learn the art of blacksmithing and why it was important in the Cades Cove community.	Cades Cove Visitor Center	Ongoing 6 hours	Easy
Junior Ranger: Slimy Salamanders: Join a ranger to explore the damp, dark world of the park’s most popular amphibian. Be prepared to get a little wet and even a little dirty as we search for this slimy creature.	Sugarlands Visitor Center	1 hour	Easy
Old-Time Toy Demonstration: See how wooden toys were used back in Cades Cove’s earlier days.	Cades Cove Visitor Center/Cable Mill	Ongoing 6 hours	Easy

ACCESSIBLE	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.	SUN.	SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS
No				10:00 A.M. starting June 23				
No				12:00 P.M. starting June 23				
No				1:30 P.M. starting June 23				
Yes					2:00 P.M. starting June 24			
Yes					7:00 PM starting June 24			
No						1:30 P.M. starting June 25		
Yes						7:00 P.M. starting June 25		
Yes			11:00 A.M.					
Yes					1:00 P.M. June 17 July 15 August 19			
No							2:00 P.M. July 17	
Yes						10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. June 18		
Yes						2:00 P.M. June 4 & 18 July 2 & 16 August 6 & 20		
Yes						10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. May 28 June 18 July 2 August 6	10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. May 29 June 19 July 3 August 7	
No				9:00 A.M. June 16 June 30 July 28				Closed-toed shoes recommended.
Yes			11:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. May 25 – August 3					

visitor information

for more information, www.nps.gov/grsm

information

General park information:
(865) 436-1200
www.nps.gov/grsm
Backcountry information
(865) 436-1297
www.smokiespermits.nps.gov
To order maps & guides
(865) 436-7318 x226
www.smokiesinformation.org

emergencies

Listed below are some numbers to call **for emergencies** that arise after hours.
Park Headquarters (865) 436-9171
Cherokee Police (828) 497-4131
Gatlinburg Police (865) 436-5181

hospitals

Le Conte/Sevier County
(865) 446-7000, Middle Creek Rd., Sevierville, TN.
Blount Memorial (865) 983-7211, U.S. 321, Maryville, TN.
Haywood County (828) 456-7311, Waynesville, NC.
Swain County (828) 488-2155, Bryson City, NC.

regulations

Picking or digging plants is prohibited in the park.
Persons feeding wildlife are subject to a \$5,000 fine.
Pets are not permitted on most park trails. Only the Gatlinburg and Oconaluftee River trails allow dogs on a leash.

accessibility

Restrooms at all park visitor centers (Cades Cove, Clingmans Dome, Oconaluftee, and Sugarlands) are fully accessible. The Sugarlands Valley all-access nature trail is located on Newfound Gap Road just south of Sugarlands Visitor Center.

