

Georgia

Miles from Katahdin	Features	Services	Elev.	Miles from Springer
2,179.1	Springer Mtn		3,782	0.0
2,178.9	Springer Mtn Shelter... <i>1.9mS; 3mN</i>	E-0.2m S, C, w	3,730	0.2
2,178.1	USFS 42	R	3,350	1.0
2,176.3	Stover Creek Shelter... <i>3mS; 5.4mN</i>	E-0.2m S, w	2,870	2.8
2,175.3	Stover Creek	w	2,660	3.8
2,174.8	Three Forks, USFS 58	R, C, w	2,530	4.3
2,174.0	Trail to Long Creek Falls	w	2,800	5.1
2,173.1	Logging Rd	R	3,000	6.0
2,171.3	Hawk Mtn Shelter... <i>5.4mS; 7.6mN</i>	W-0.2m S; 0.4m w	3,200	7.8
2,170.8	Hightower Gap, USFS 42/69	R	2,854	8.3
2,168.9	Horse Gap	R	2,673	10.2
2,167.9	Sassafras Mtn		3,300	11.2
2,167.3	Cooper Gap, USFS 42/80	R	2,800	11.8
2,166.7	Justus Mtn		3,224	12.4
2,165.3	Justus Creek	C, w	2,550	13.8
2,164.0	Gooch Mtn Shelter... <i>7.6mS; 12.5mN</i>	W-0.1m S, w	3,000	15.1
2,162.6	Gooch Gap, USFS 42	R, w	2,784	16.5
2,160.4	Ramrock Mtn		3,260	18.7
2,159.0	Ga. 60, Woody Gap Suches, GA 30572	R (W-0.1m w; 2m PO G, C, D, cl, sh, f) (E-7m H, f, @)	3,150	20.1
2,158.0	Big Cedar Mtn		3,737	21.1
2,156.7	Dan Gap		3,300	22.4
2,153.9	Burnett Field Mtn		3,480	25.2
2,153.4	Jarrard Gap	W-0.3m w; 1m C, sh, w; 2m M	3,250	25.7
2,152.1	Woods Hole Shelter... <i>12.5mS; 1.8mN</i>	W-0.5m S, w	3,600	27.0
2,152.0	Bird Gap, Freeman Trail		3,650	27.1
2,151.6	Slaughter Creek Campsite	C, w	3,800	27.5

Miles from Katahdin	Features	Services	Elev.	Miles from Springer
2,150.8	Blood Mtn, Blood Mtn Shelter... <i>1.8mS; 9.8mN</i>	S, nw	4,450	28.3
2,149.4	Flatrock Gap, Trail to Byron Reece Memorial	W-0.2m w	3,450	29.7
2,148.4	U.S. 19 & 129, Neels Gap	R, H, O, cl, sh, f, @ (E-0.3m L) (W-3m C, G, cl, sh; 3.5m C, L, cl, sh)	3,125	30.7
2,147.3	Bull Gap	C, w	3,690	31.8
2,146.9	Levelland Mtn		3,942	32.2
2,146.3	Swaim Gap		3,470	32.8
2,145.6	Rock Spring Top	w	3,520	33.5
2,145.1	Corbin Horse Stamp		3,620	34.0
2,145.0	Wolf Laurel Top		3,766	34.1
2,144.2	Baggs Creek Gap	C, w	3,800	34.9
2,143.7	Cowrock Mtn		3,842	35.4
2,142.9	Tesnatee Gap, Ga. 348	R	3,138	36.2
2,142.4	Wildcat Mtn		3,500	36.7
2,142.2	Whitley Gap Shelter... <i>9.8mS; 5.8mN</i>	E-1.2m S; 1.5m w	3,370	36.9
2,142.0	Hogpen Gap, Ga. 348	R, w	3,450	37.1
2,141.1	White Oak Stamp		3,470	38.0
2,140.1	Poor Mtn		3,620	39.0
2,138.4	Sheep Rock Top		3,600	40.7
2,137.6	Low Gap Shelter... <i>5.8mS; 7.2mN</i>	S, w	3,050	41.5
2,136.2	Poplar Stamp Gap	C, w	2,990	42.9
2,133.8	Cold Springs Gap		3,300	45.3
2,132.6	Chattahoochee Gap	E-0.5m w	3,500	46.5
2,132.0	Red Clay Gap		3,485	47.1
2,131.3	Campsite	C	3,600	47.8
2,131.1	Spring	w	3,500	48.0
2,130.4	Blue Mtn Shelter... <i>7.2mS; 8.0mN</i>	S, w	3,900	48.7
2,129.6	Blue Mtn		4,025	49.5

Miles from Katahdin	Features	Services	Elev.	Miles from Springer
2,128.2	Ga. 75, Unicoi Gap Helen, GA 30545	R (E-9m PO G, M, L, cl, @) (W-3.8m C, L, G, cl, f, @)	2,949	50.9
2,127.6	Stream	w	3,300	51.5
2,126.9	Rocky Mtn	C	4,017	52.2
2,125.6	Indian Grave Gap, USFS 283	R	3,113	53.5
2,124.9	Tray Mtn Rd, (USFS 79)	R	3,580	54.2
2,124.6	Cheese Factory Site	C, w	3,590	54.5
2,123.8	Tray Gap, Tray Mtn Rd, (USFS 79)	R	3,847	55.3
2,123.0	Tray Mtn		4,430	56.1
2,122.6	Tray Mtn Shelter... <i>8.0mS; 8.0mN</i>	W-0.2m S; 0.3m w	4,200	56.5
2,119.0	Swag of the Blue Ridge		3,400	60.1
2,117.8	Sassafras Gap	w	3,500	61.3
2,117.0	Addis Gap	E-0.5m C, w	3,304	62.1
2,116.0	Kelly Knob		4,276	63.1
2,115.1	Deep Gap Shelter... <i>8.0mS; 8.5mN</i>	E-0.3m S, w	3,550	64.0
2,114.0	McClure Gap	C	3,650	65.1
2,113.8	Powell Mtn		3,850	65.3
2,112.8	Moreland Gap		3,200	66.3
2,112.2	Streams	w	2,650	66.9
2,111.6	U.S. 76, Dicks Creek Gap Hiawassee, GA 30546	R, w (W-1.5m H, f; 3.5m H, f, cl; 11m PO, G, M, L, D, V, cl, sh, @)	2,675	67.5
2,110.5	Campsite	C, w	3,150	68.6
2,109.8	Cowart Gap		2,900	69.3
2,108.3	Bull Gap		3,690	70.8
2,107.1	Plumorchard Gap Shelter... <i>8.5mS; 7.5mN</i>	E-0.2m S, w	3,050	72.0
2,106.4	As Knob		3,460	72.7
2,105.8	Blue Ridge Gap		3,020	73.3
2,104.8	Campsite	C, w	3,500	74.3
2,104.6	Rich Cove Gap		3,390	74.5
2,102.7	Ga.-N.C. State Line		3,825	76.4



Springer Mountain by Van Hill

The Trail begins in Georgia at Springer Mountain and follows a rugged, often rocky terrain, reaching a height of more than 4,461 feet and never dipping below 2,500 feet. It passes through five major gaps and more than 25 smaller ones. Thru-hikers starting their journey in March or April will probably see snow, which can add to the difficulty. Spring melts give way to many of the wildflowers common throughout the mountains, including bloodroot, trillium, and azalea. Forests are mostly second-growth hardwoods of hickory, oak, and poplar.

Georgia Appalachian Trail Club—GATC maintains the 76.5 miles from Springer Mountain to Bly Gap, just over the North Carolina line. Correspondence should be sent to GATC, P.O. Box 654, Atlanta, GA 30301; (404) 634-6495; <trails_super-visor@georgia-atclub.org>.

Chattahoochee National Forest—The Trail in Georgia winds through the Chattahoochee National Forest, created by Congress in 1936. By that time, much of the land had been laid bare from intensive timber harvesting. Today, little virgin timber remains, but the hardwoods have reestablished themselves with the help of 73 years of management and protection. Half of the Trail lies within five designated wilderness areas in the forest.

Bear problems—With the loss of habitat from development in the mountains, black bears are roaming farther in search of food. To combat this problem, the GATC and the USFS are placing bear cables for hanging food at the shelters most affected. If bear cables are not available, secure food using bear-proof techniques.

Springer Mountain—Springer has served as the A.T.'s southern terminus since 1958. Before that, Mt. Oglethorpe, to the southwest, was the southern terminus. In 1993, GATC members and the Forest Service installed a new plaque marking the Trail's southernmost blaze. The hiker register is located within the boulder on which the plaque is mounted. The origin of the mountain's name is a bit foggy. The best guess is that it was named in honor of William G. Springer, a settler who, in 1833, was appointed by the Georgia governor to implement legislation to improve conditions for North Georgia Indians. The original bronze plaque marking the southern terminus, one of three intended for road crossings, was created in 1934 by GATC member and amateur sculptor George Noble at a cost of \$20—a hefty amount in those days. Warner Hall, the club's second president, served as Noble's model and coined the phrase, "A footpath for those who seek fellowship with the wilderness." That plaque was moved to the mountain in May 1959; keep an eye out for the other two plaques at road crossings along the Trail in Georgia. The overlook at the 3,782-foot summit provides views to the west—a nice sunset spot.

Springer Mountain Shelter (1993)—Sleeps 12. Privy. Near the summit, about 250 yards north of the bronze plaque, then east on a blue-blazed side trail about 200 yards. Use the designated tentpads in this heavily trafficked area, and use the food-hoist cables to discourage local bears. Water source is a spring located 80 yards on a blue-blazed trail in front of the shelter; spring may go dry in times of drought.

Stover Creek Shelter (2006)—Sleeps 16. Privy, tentpads, bear cables. The fourth incarnation, this nearby alternative to the often-crowded Springer Mountain Shelter was built in 2006. Water source is the creek. No tenting near water.

Hawk Mountain Shelter (1993)—Sleeps 12. Privy. Army Rangers from nearby Camp Frank D. Merrill use the area for training exercises and have been spotted all times of the day and night. Food-hoist cables available; bear activity often reported. Water source is located 300 yards on a blue-blazed trail behind the shelter.

Gooch Mountain Shelter (2001)—Sleeps 14. Privy. Nearly 2,000 volunteer hours were spent constructing this double-decker shelter and nearby tentpads. Additional tenting space farther north at Gooch Gap, near the old shelter site. Food-hoisting cables. Excellent water source is 100 yards behind the shelter.



Ga. 60/Woody Gap/Suches—At the gap are picnic tables and a privy. A spring is on a poorly marked side trail west of the A.T. on the northern side of the gap.

East 7 miles to **Hostel**: A.T. Hiker Hostel run by Josh and Leigh Saint, (770) 312-7342, <www.hikerhostel.com>, <hikerhostel@yahoo.com>. Bunk & B \$16, private & B \$38D; 5 p.m. pick-up at Woody Gap, Feb 26–Apr 29. Fuel (white gas, canister & alcohol), shuttle service (call for pick-up outside period of 2/22 to 4/25), free Internet; see Web site or contact for shuttle rates.

West 2 miles to **Suches, Ga.** [P.O. ZIP 30572: **M–F 7:30–11:30 & 1–4:30, Sa 7:30–11:30; (706) 747-2611**]. ■ **Camping**: Two Wheels Only, (706) 747-5151, tentsite \$7PP, hot showers, L 11–2 Sa, Su; D 6–8:30 F, Sa; open Apr–Oct. ■ **Groceries**: Suches General Store (short-term resupply), (706) 747-3325, Coleman fuel and alcohol by the ounce, B and L, holds UPS packages shipped to 12905 Wolf Pen Gap Rd., Suches, GA 30572. Open M–Th 7–7, F–Sa 7–8. ■ **Other services**: Don L. Pruitt, M.D., (706) 747-1421, open M–Th 9–4, walk-ins 9–11. Jim and Ruth Ann Miner, (706) 747-5434, live in town and are available if you need help. ■ **Shuttles**: Wes Wisson, (706) 747-2671; <dwisson@windstream.net>.

Jarrard Gap—A blue-blazed trail to the west leads 1 mile to USFS Lake Winfield Scott Recreation Area, which offers tentsites, showers, \$12; dogs must be leashed. Lenny's Grill, hours F, Sa 4–9, Su 10:30–3; turn left at LWS entrance, and continue 1 mile.

Woods Hole Shelter (1998)—Sleeps 7. Privy. Located 0.4 mile west on a blue-blazed side trail, this “Nantahala design” shelter is named in honor of the late Tillie and Roy Wood, operators of the Woodshole Hostel near Pearisburg, Virginia. Food-hoist cables available. Water source is an unreliable spring along the trail to the shelter.

Bird Gap—From here, the Freeman Trail leads 1.7 miles around the south slope of Blood Mountain and rejoins the A.T. 1.1 miles from Neels Gap. Those who choose this blue-blazed route miss the climb to the Trail's high point in Georgia; it serves as a foul-weather route around Blood Mountain.

Slaughter Gap—Reached by a side trail (after a major relocation to restore this over-used area), tentsites have been built near Slaughter Creek to ease the load on Blood Mountain.

Blood Mountain—According to tales of the Creek and Cherokee, a battle between the two nations on the slopes of the mountain left so many dead and wounded that the ground ran red with blood, which inspired the name. Blood Mountain is the most-visited spot on the A.T. south of Clingmans Dome, and the impact of more than 40,000 visitors a year has taken its toll. Vandalism in and around the shelter has been a chronic problem. In an effort to counter visitor impact, fires have been banned along a 3.3-mile section between Slaughter Gap and Neels Gap.

Blood Mountain Shelter (1934)—Sleeps 8. Privy. Located atop the highest peak on the A.T. in Georgia (4,461 feet), this historic two-room stone structure was last refurbished in 1981. No water or firewood available; no fires permitted. Northbounders can get water from a stream 0.3 mile north of Bird Gap or on a blue-blazed side trail at Slaughter Gap, 0.9 mile from the shelter. Southbounders can get water at Neels Gap or at a spring located on the blue-blazed trail to Byron Reece Memorial, 0.2 mile from where the trail joins the A.T., 2.4 miles south of Neels Gap.



U.S. 19 & 129/Neels Gap—Mountain Crossings at Walasi-Yi Center is a full-service *Outfitter* with all stove fuels and gift shop (short-term resupply) operated by Winton Porter, (706) 745-6095; open daily 8:30–6. UPS and USPS packages held, \$1 donation. Ship packages to 9710 Gainesville Hwy., Blairsville, GA 30512. ■ **Hostel:** Walasi-Yi, <www.mountaincrossings.com>, open year-round, \$15PP, with shower, coin laundry, nonguest shower \$3.50, pets outside. Call for possible cabin rentals (available by reservation), up to 8 people (2 minimum), \$30 PP. ■ **Shuttles:** Tom Bazemore, (706) 265-9454; “Cool Breeze,” (813) 470-9777.

East 0.3 mile to **Lodging:** Blood Mountain Cabins, (800) 284-6866, <www.blood-mountain.com>. Cabins with showers, kitchens, and satellite TV sleep 4; thru-hiker rate \$60, no pets. A trail leads from the Walasi-Yi Center to the resort office.

West 3 miles to **Camping:** Vogel State Park, (800) 864-7275, <www.gastateparks.org>. Tentsites with shower \$12–\$23, showers only \$3. Other park services include a camp store (short-term resupply), coin laundry (detergent 75¢), and rental cabins; reservations are suggested for tentsites and cabins. Leash dogs inside the park.

West 3.5 miles to **Lodging:** Goose Creek Cabins, (706) 745-5111, <www.goose-creekcabins.com>. Owners Keith and Retter Bailey offer free shuttles from Neels Gap with cabin or tentsite rental. Special hiker rates for cabin begin at \$25PP; dogs

permitted. Tentsites with shower, \$10PP. Amenities include laundry (\$5/load), CATV, WiFi, and shuttles to a nearby restaurant each evening. UPS packages can be shipped to Goose Creek Cabins, 7061 U.S. 19/129S, Blairsville, GA 30512; <goose-creek@alltel.net>.

Whitley Gap Shelter (1974)—Sleeps 6. Privy. This shelter is located 1.2 miles east of the A.T. down a steep side trail. Food-hoist cables available. Water source is a spring 0.3 mile behind the shelter.

Low Gap Shelter (1953)—Sleeps 7. Privy. Food-hoist cables available. Water source is crossed at the shelter; a second source can be found 30 yards in front of the shelter.

Chattahoochee Gap—A blue-blazed side trail leads east to Chattahoochee Spring, source of the Chattahoochee River, which supplies drinking water to Atlanta and almost half of the state's population. Some 500 miles from this point, the river empties into the Gulf of Mexico. Springs rising on the other side of the continental divide flow to the Tennessee River and eventually to the Mississippi.

Blue Mountain Shelter (1988)—Sleeps 7. Privy. Located on a short side trail, this shelter is notorious for cold north winds that blow up Blue Mountain from the gap below. Food-hoist cables available. Water source is a spring on the A.T. 0.1 mile south of the shelter.



Ga. 75/Unicoi Gap—East 9 miles to Helen, Ga. [P.O. ZIP 30545: M–F 9–5, Sa 9–12; (706) 878-2422], Georgia's "Gatlinburg." The town's year-round population of

300 can play host to as many as 30,000 people in a day, so there are many motels and restaurants from which to choose. A good place to start in town is the visitors center, found behind the post office, which has a map and free phone from which to call motels to find the best rates. Rates vary greatly according to season but are generally at their lowest Jan–Mar. Expect rates to increase after Apr 1 and on the weekends and for Oktoberfest (held early Sep–Oct). Retail shops abound as well.

■ **Lodging:** Hofbrau Riverfront Hotel, (800) 830-3977, \$80–125, small pets \$17.25, ATM, B, microwave, refrigerator; Helendorf River Inn, (800) 445-2271, \$75, coin laundry, detergent \$1, dogs \$10, B, heated pool; Econolodge, (706) 878-8000, \$50–159, \$10EAP, B, pets under 8 lbs. in selected rooms \$20; Super 8 Motel, (800) 535-1251, next to laundromat, hiker rates (\$35s) exclude weekends, B, microwave, refrigerator, no pets, WiFi, Internet access, heated pool; Best Western, (800) 435-3642, \$45, WiFi, hot B, no pets, free possible shuttles to Trail M–F; Motel 6, (706) 878-8888, \$28–\$60,

\$6EAP, pets allowed; Ramada Limited, (706) 878-1451, \$50–\$179D, B, no pets; Quality Inn, (706) 878-2268, \$39–\$69, \$10EAP, B, pets under 20 lbs. \$10, WiFi, possible shuttle to Trail; Days Inn, (706) 878-4079, \$39–\$149D, B, pets \$10 and less than 25 lbs. in limited rooms; RiverBend, (706) 878-2155, hiker rate \$39–\$69, \$10EAP, cabins up to 4 people \$99–250, pets \$12.50; Rodeway Inn, (706) 878-2141, \$30–\$60 in off-season, \$10EAP, pets less than 15 lbs. \$12.50, heavier \$15, B; Helen accommodations, <www.helenga.org>. ■ **Groceries:** Betty's Country Store and Deli (long-term resupply), open daily 7–8. ■ **Restaurants:** numerous. ■ **Internet access:** White County Library, Helen Branch. ■ **Other services:** bicycle rentals available at Woody's Mountain Bikes, (706) 878-3715; pharmacy. ■ **Shuttles:** Mall Shuttle Transport Service, (706) 219-1653.

East 17 miles to **Medical:** Cleveland, Ga., Neighborhood Health Care, (706) 865-1234, M–F 8:15–5.

West 1.3 miles, then left 2.5 miles on Ga. 180 to **Lodging:** Enota Mountain Retreat, (800) 990-8869, <www.enota.com>; waterfalls, organic gardens, and an animal sanctuary; \$10 membership per visit and \$5 campfire fee; tentsites \$20, bunkhouse \$25, cabins \$100–\$165, dogs \$5. Amenities include free long-distance phone, coin laundry with soap, B 8–10:30 with advance notice, L/D, satellite TV, video library, Internet access, Jacuzzis in some cabins, massage 1½ hours \$100, possible shuttle to Trail for fee. General store (short-term resupply) open 8:30–8, including Coleman, alcohol, and canister fuels. Enota holds packages, for guests only, mailed to 1000 Hwy. 180, Hiawassee, GA 30546.

Cheese Factory Site—In the mid-1800s, an eccentric New Englander established a dairy near Tray Mountain, about 15 miles from the nearest farmhouse. Other Georgians, who received parcels in the mountains after a government survey of former Indian lands in the 1830s, opted to sell their land to speculators rather than attempt to tame the untamable. For several years, the man ran his dairy successfully and reportedly produced a superior cheese that won several awards at state agricultural fairs. Little evidence of the dairy remains today, although the spot is a designated campsite with a spring.

Tray Mountain—Spectacular views from the 4,430-foot summit and probably the southernmost breeding area in the United States for Canada warblers. These small, active songbirds may be spotted in the rhododendron thickets along the southern approach to the summit. Males are blue-gray above and yellow throughout the chest. Look for the distinctive “necklace” on both the males’ and females’ chests. The Canada warbler’s song is an irregular burst of beautiful notes.

Tray Mountain Shelter (1971)—Sleeps 7. Privy. Food-hoist cables. Excellent overnight spot for taking in the sunset and sunrise from the summit or from viewpoints along the 0.2-mile trail to the shelter. Water source is a spring located 260 yards behind the shelter.

Deep Gap Shelter (1983)—Sleeps 12. Privy. Food-hoist cables. Shelter is designed like the Springer Mountain Shelter and located on a 0.3-mile side trail to the east. Water source is on the blue-blazed trail to the shelter.

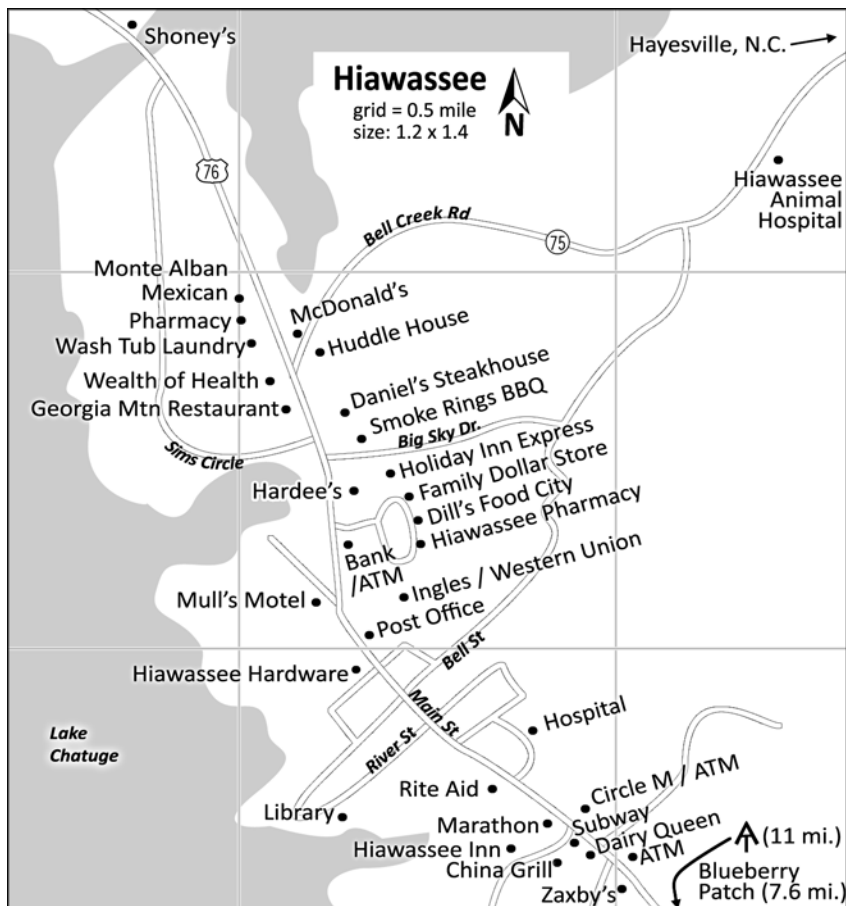


U.S. 76/Dicks Creek Gap/Hiawassee—At road are parking lot, picnic tables, and small creek.

West 3.5 miles to **Hostel**: Blueberry Patch Hiker Hostel, a Christian ministry owned by '91 thru-hiker Gary Poteat and his wife, Lennie. Look for the Blueberry Patch sign on the left side of the highway as you descend from Dicks Creek Gap; (706) 896-4893. Evenings are the best time to reach the Poteats. If you can't reach them, keep trying; they cannot return long-distance calls. Open Feb 15–May 1. Hostel remains open by generosity of hiker donations. Includes shower, laundry service, B, and shuttle back to the Trail at 9:30 a.m. Bunks for 7 with accommodations for up to 10. Please arrive no earlier than 10 a.m. and no later than 6 p.m. Coleman fuel by the ounce. The Poteats hold UPS and USPS packages mailed to 5038 U.S. Hwy. 76, Hiawassee, GA 30546. NO pets, alcohol, drugs, or tobacco products.

West 11 miles to **Hiawassee, Ga. [P.O. ZIP 30546: M–F 8:30–5:30, Sa 8:30–12; (706) 896-3632].** ■ **Lodging**: Mull's Motel, (706) 896-4195, \$55 and up, holds packages for guests only, no dogs, 213 N. Main St., Hiawassee, GA 30546; Hiawassee Inn, (706) 896-4121, \$39.95D, \$5EAP each, tent set-up with shower \$10, one evening restaurant shuttle, laundry with detergent \$3, shower only \$3, free shuttle from/to Trail at Dicks Creek or Unicoi gaps Mar–Apr only, \$5 per person other months, holds UPS packages only for guests, 193 East Main St., Hiawassee, GA 30546; Holiday Inn Express, <www.hiexpress.com/hiawassee>, (706) 896-8884, special hiker rates of \$69–\$120, \$6EAP, no pets, B included, coin laundry with free detergent, indoor whirlpool, free bicycle use, possible shuttle to Trail for a fee, Internet access, will hold UPS packages, 300 Big Sky Dr., Hiawassee, GA 30546. ■ **Groceries**: Dill's Food City, Ingles, both long-term resupply. ■ **Restaurants**: Georgia Mountain Restaurant, B only on weekends, L/D; Shoney's, AYCE buffet, B/L/D (about one mile from the town center); Subway; China Grill AYCE; Dairy Queen; Monte Alban Mexican, L/D; Daniel's Steakhouse, L/D AYCE; Corner Café; Huddle House; Smoke Rings BBQ; various

other fast-food places. ■ **Internet access:** Towns County Public Library. ■ **Other services:** Western Union; coin laundry; Chatugue Regional Hospital, (706) 896-2222, known for treatment of blisters; Open Door Clinic on Thursdays, (706) 896-6241, 120 River St., fee based on income; pharmacy; dentist; banks with ATM; hardware store; Hiawassee Animal Hospital, (706) 896-4173. ■ **Shuttles:** Hiawassee Inn, (706) 896-4121.



Plumorchard Gap Shelter (1993)—Sleeps 14. Privy. The stump in front of the shelter has been a residence of copperhead snakes. Water source is a creek that crosses the trail to the shelter or a spring located 200 yards west of the A.T., opposite the shelter trail. Food-hoisting cables.

Bly Gap—If you are thru-hiking, it is time to celebrate your first (or last) state line. When you see the gnarled oak in a clearing, you're officially in North Carolina. The gap, with its grassy area and views to the northwest, makes a good campsite. Water can be obtained from a spring about 100 yards south on the A.T.

North Carolina

Miles from Katahdin	Features	Services	Elev.	Miles from Springer
2,102.7	N.C.-Ga. State Line		3,825	76.4
2,102.6	Bly Gap	C, w	3,840	76.5
2,100.7	Sassafras Gap		4,300	78.4
2,099.8	Muskrat Creek Shelter... <i>7.5mS; 4.9mN</i>	S, w	4,600	79.3
2,099.0	Whiteoak Stamp		4,620	80.1
2,098.8	Chunky Gal Trail		4,700	80.3
2,097.9	Wateroak Gap		4,490	81.2
2,095.8	Deep Gap, USFS 71, Kimsey Creek Trail	R, w (W-3.7m C, G, sh)	4,341	83.3
2,094.9	Standing Indian Shelter... <i>4.9mS; 7.6mN</i>	S, w	4,760	84.2
2,093.4	Lower Trail Ridge Trail, Standing Indian Mtn	(E-0.2m summit) (W-0.2m w)	5,498	85.7
2,090.5	Beech Gap	C, w	4,460	88.6
2,087.7	Timber Ridge Trail		4,700	91.4
2,087.3	Carter Gap Shelter... <i>7.6mS; 6.8mN</i>	S, w	4,540	91.8
2,083.6	Betty Creek Gap	C, w	4,300	95.5
2,082.7	Mooney Gap, USFS 83	R	4,400	96.4
2,082.5	Spring	w	4,500	96.6
2,081.4	Bearpen Trail, USFS 67	R	4,790	97.7
2,081.1	Albert Mtn		5,250	98.0
2,080.5	Big Spring Shelter... <i>6.8mS; 5.3mN</i>	S, w	4,940	98.6
2,077.7	Glassmine Gap		4,160	101.4
2,075.2	Rock Gap Shelter... <i>5.3mS; 8mN</i>	S, w	3,760	103.9
2,075.1	Rock Gap; Wasilik Poplar; Standing Indian Campground	R (W-1.5m C, G, sh)	3,750	104.0
2,074.5	Wallace Gap, Old U.S. 64	R	3,738	104.6
2,071.4	Winding Stair Gap, U.S. 64 Franklin, NC 28734	R, w (W-10m PO, G, M, L, O, D, V, cl, f, @)	3,770	107.7
2,070.5	Campsite	C, w	3,970	108.6

Miles from Katahdin	Features	Services	Elev.	Miles from Springer
2,070.3	Swinging Lick Gap		4,100	108.8
2,069.4	Panther Gap		4,480	109.7
2,067.7	Siler Bald Shelter... <i>8mS; 7.88mN</i>	E—0.5m S, w	4,600	111.4
2,065.5	Wayah Gap, S.R. 1310	R	4,180	113.6
2,063.7	USFS 69	R, w	4,900	115.4
2,063.2	Wine Spring	C, w	5,290	115.9
2,061.3	Wayah Bald	R	5,342	117.8
2,060.9	Campsite	C, w	5,200	118.2
2,060.4	Wayah Shelter... <i>7.8mS, 4.8mN</i>	Sw		118.7
2,059.1	Licklog Gap	W—0.5m w	4,440	120.0
2,056.8	Burningtown Gap, S.R. 1397	R	4,236	122.3
2,055.6	Cold Spring Shelter... <i>4.8mS; 5.8mN</i>	C, S, w	4,920	123.5
2,054.9	Copper Ridge Bald Lookout		5,080	124.2
2,053.7	Trail to Rocky Bald Lookout		5,030	125.4
2,053.4	Spring	w	4,900	125.7
2,052.0	Tellico Gap, S.R. 1365	R	3,850	127.1
2,050.6	Wesser Bald Observation Tower		4,627	128.5
2,049.9	Spring	w	4,100	129.2
2,049.8	Wesser Creek Trail, Wesser Bald Shelter... <i>5.8mS; 4.9mN</i>	C, S, w	4,115	129.3
2,048.2	Jump-up Lookout		4,000	130.9
2,044.9	A. Rufus Morgan Shelter... <i>4.9mS; 7.7mN</i>	S, w	2,300	134.2
2,044.1	U.S. 19, U.S. 74, Nantahala River, Nantahala Outdoor Center, Wesser, N.C. Bryson City, NC 28713	R, G, L, M, O, cl, sh, f (E—1m C, G, L; 13m PD, G, M, L, D, cl) (S—1m C, sh)	1,723	135.0
2,042.5	Wright Gap	R	2,390	136.6
2,041.0	Grassy Gap		3,050	138.1
2,038.1	Swim Bald		4,710	141.0
2,037.2	Sassafras Gap Shelter... <i>7.7mS; 9.1mN</i>	S, w	4,330	141.9

Miles from Katahdin	Features	Services	Elev.	Miles from Springer
2,036.0	Cheoah Bald		5,062	143.1
2,033.6	Locust Cove Gap	C, w	3,690	145.5
2,032.6	Simp Gap		3,700	146.5
2,030.5	Stecoah Gap, N.C. 143	R, w	3,165	148.6
2,029.5	Sweetwater Gap		3,270	149.6
2,028.1	Brown Fork Gap Shelter... <i>9.1mS; 6.1mN</i>	S, w	3,800	151.0
2,027.9	Brown Fork Gap		3,600	151.2
2,026.1	Hogback Gap		3,540	153.0
2,025.3	Cody Gap	C, w	3,600	153.8
2,022.9	Yellow Creek Gap, S.R. 1242 (Yellow Crk Mtn Rd)	R	2,980	156.2
2,022.0	Cable Gap Shelter... <i>6.1mS; 6.6mN</i>	S, w	2,880	157.1
2,020.6	Black Gum Gap		3,490	158.5
2,019.2	Walker Gap, Yellow Creek Trail	W-2.5m PO, G, L, M, O, cl, f	3,450	159.9
2,019.0	Campsite	C, w	3,200	160.1
2,016.5	N.C. 28 Fontana Dam, NC 28733	R (E-0.6m L, f, @) (W-1.8m PO, G, L, M, O, cl, f)	1,810	162.6
2,015.4	Fontana Dam Shelter... <i>6.6mS; 11.3mN</i>	R, S, w	1,775	163.7
2,015.1	Fontana Dam Visitor Ctr	R, sh, w	1,700	164.0

At Bly Gap, northbounders enter the Nantahala National Forest with 4,000-foot gaps and 5,000-foot peaks. Nantahala is Cherokee for “land of the noonday sun.” Long climbs between the Stecoah–Cheoah Mountain area and Cheoah Bald offer panoramic views of western North Carolina. Don’t rush; enjoy the landscape from an observation tower or two. Take a pit stop at the NOC playground on the Nantahala River for some food and a rafting trip.

Nantahala Hiking Club—NHC maintains the 58.5 miles between Bly Gap and the Nantahala River. Correspondence should be sent to NHC, 173 Carl Slagle Rd., Franklin, NC 28734; <www.maconcommunity.org/nhc/>.

No road access to the A.T. is available between Bly Gap and Rock Gap during Jan, Feb, and part of Mar. The Forest Service closes USFS 71 to all vehicular traffic until Mar 1 and USFS 67 until Mar 15. Frequently used Trailheads at Deep Gap, and others, are inaccessible.

Muskrat Creek Shelter (rebuilt 1995)—Sleeps 8. Moldering privy. Birthplace of “The Old Pros,” a legendary backpacking group that included Ron Tipton (now SVP of the National Parks Conservation Association), Dave Sherman (retired from the Forest Service Washington lands office), and the late Ed Garvey. This shelter uses the “Nantahala design.” Water source is just south and visible from the shelter.

Deep Gap—From here, the Kimsey Creek Trail leads 3.7 miles to the Forest Service’s Standing Indian Campground (see next page).

Standing Indian Shelter (1996)—Sleeps 8. Privy. “Nantahala design” shelter east of the A.T. Water source is a stream opposite the side trail to the shelter. Recent bear sightings; *use bear-proofing techniques.*

Standing Indian Mountain—The 5,498-foot summit of the mountain 0.2 mile east is reached *via* a blue-blazed side trail. Cliff-top views to the south gave it the nickname, “Grandstand of the Southern Appalachians.” According to Cherokee legend, a great winged monster once inhabited the mountain, and, during the monster’s reign, warriors were posted on the mountain as lookouts. As the story goes, a tremendous bolt of lightning shattered the mountain and killed the monster. During the strike, a lone Cherokee sentinel was hit by the bolt and turned into stone, supposedly for being a poor sentry. Remnants of the stone “Standing Indian” are visible today. At the top are flat areas for camping and views south toward Blood Mountain. A spring is located 0.2 mile downhill on an unmarked trail near the A.T. junction with Lower Trail Ridge Trail. Please tread lightly if you choose to camp here; the area receives tremendous use.

Carter Gap Shelter (1959 old/1998 new)—Two shelters, the old and the new. Old shelter sleeps 6; new shelter sleeps 8. Privy. The new shelter uses the “Nantahala design.” Water source is a spring located downhill behind the old shelter, on the west side of the Trail.

Mooney Gap—This gap has been identified as among the wettest places in the eastern U.S., with an estimated annual precipitation of 93.5 inches.

Big Spring Shelter (1959)—Sleeps 8. Privy. Food-hoist cables available. Water source is Big Spring, behind and to the left of the shelter.

Rock Gap Shelter (1965)—Sleeps 8. Privy. Located only 0.5 mile from the road. Food-hoist cables available. Water source is a spring to the left and behind the shelter.

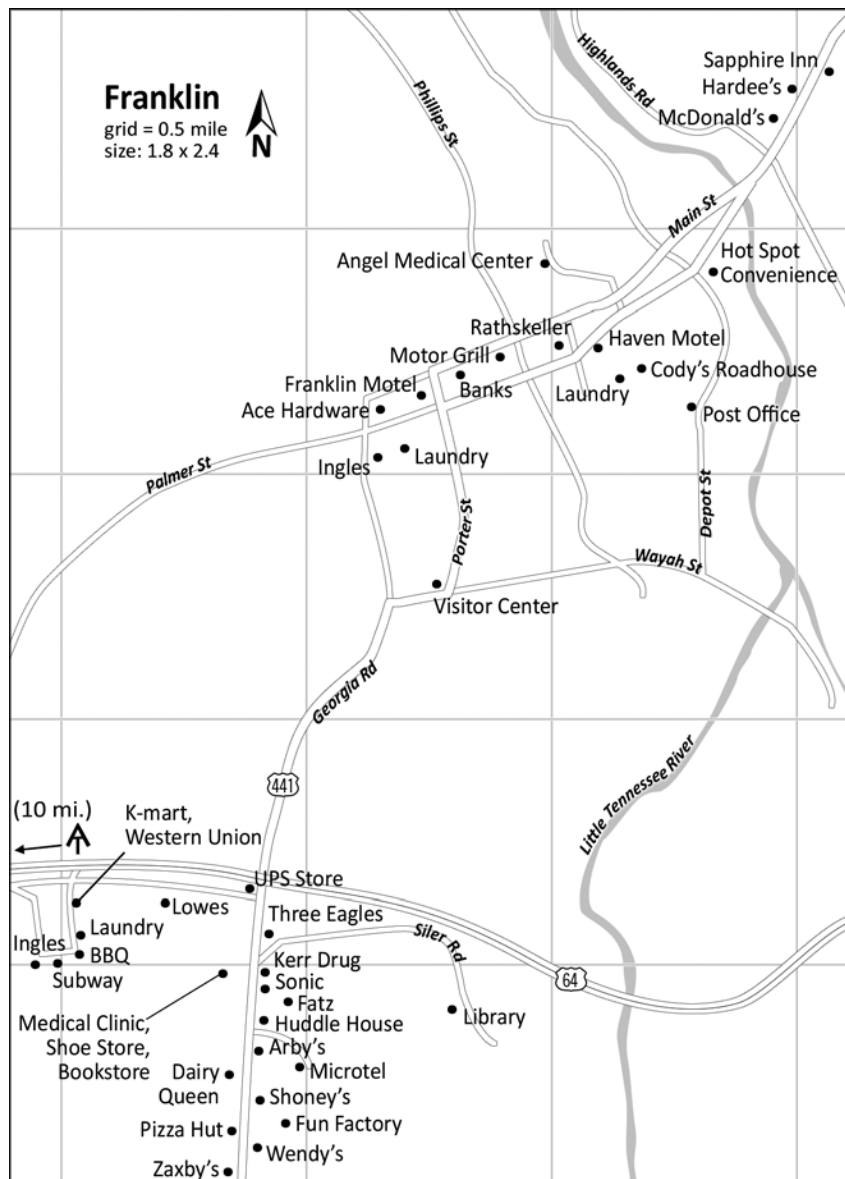


Rock Gap/Standing Indian Campground—West 1.5 miles on a paved road to the Forest Service campground with tent sites \$16, restroom, warm showers (\$2 shower only), and pay phone; small campstore open Memorial Day–Nov 30; opens according to weather but usually weekend before Easter. *Note: Closed for construction until May 1, 2010.*

Wasilik Poplar—At Rock Gap, a blue-blazed side trail leads **East** 0.5 mile to the second-largest poplar tree in the United States, now dead. In 1996, the tree measured 27 feet in circumference, 8.6 feet in diameter, and 125.5 feet in height (to a broken-off top). In the early 1900s, when logging companies began cutting the timber in this area, workers cut down another poplar similar in size to the Wasilik. However, its weight so badly strained the oxen transporting the tree the lumberjacks decided against harvesting this one.



U.S. 64/Winding Stair Gap—East 10 miles to **Franklin, N.C. [P.O. ZIP 28734: M–F 8:45–12 & 1:15–5, Sa 8:30–10; (828) 524-3219]**. Although a bit spread out, most major services are within walking distance along Business U.S. 441; <www.franklin-chamber.com>. ■ **Lodging:** Franklin Motel, (800) 433-5507, \$39.99S/D, \$5EAP, microwave, refrigerator, will hold packages for guests, 17 West Palmer St., fuel by the ounce, laundry including detergent \$3, pets allowed \$10, shuttle list available; Haven's Budget Inn, (828) 524-4403, <tiamalle@aol.com>, \$39.99S/D \$5EAP, free a.m. Mar–Apr shuttle to town (donations accepted), outfitter, and Trail, pets welcome with \$50 deposit/pet, in-room phone, free local calls, laundry room with free detergent, Internet access, will hold packages, 433 E. Palmer St.; Microtel Inn & Suites, (828) 349-9000, \$40–\$54, pets allowed free, free long-distance phone (U.S.), B, Internet access, has a local shuttle list. ■ **Groceries:** Ingles Supermarket (long-term resupply). ■ **Restaurants:** Shoney's, AYCE; Cody's Roadhouse; Huddle House; Rathskeller Snack, Lunch and Coffee Shop, Tu–Th 11–7, F–Sa 11–11, Internet access; and various other restaurants. ■ **Outfitter:** Three Eagles Outfitters, (828) 524-9061, open M–Sa 10–6, Su 12–4, full-service outfitter; Coleman and alcohol fuel by the ounce, Esbit and canisters; will ship and hold packages, 78 Siler Rd., 1 Three Eagles Place. ■ **Internet access:** Macon County Library, Rathskeller. ■ **Other services:** UPS Store,



(828) 524-9800, M–F 8–6, Sa 9–1; coin laundry; cobbler; hospital; Angel Urgent Care Center, (828) 369-4427, M–F 8–6, Sa–Su 10–4; pharmacy; veterinarian; banks with ATM; City Taxi, (828) 369-5042 until 6 p.m., after 6 p.m. by appointment; visitors center, (866) 372-5546, M–Sa 9–5. ■ **Shuttles:** Roadrunner Driving Services, (706) 201-7719, <where2@mac.com>.

Siler Bald Shelter (1959)—Sleeps 8. Privy. Located 0.5 mile on a blue-blazed loop. Food-hoist cables available. Water source is 80 yards down a blue-blazed trail from the shelter.

Wayah Bald—John B. Byrne Memorial Tower. The stone observation tower at the summit of Wayah Bald (5,342 ft.) was built in 1937 by the CCC and renovated in 1983. Byrne was the supervisor of the Nantahala National Forest who first proposed the route of the Appalachian Trail in this area. Wayah is Cherokee for “wolf.”

Wayah Shelter (2007)—Nantahala-type shelter sleeps 8 with overhang for cooking shelves and seating. Privy. Five tentsites and fire ring near shelter. Water source is Little Laurel Creek, 600 feet west of A.T. on blue-blazed trail. This shelter was built by NHC in memory of Ann and Larry McDuff, thru-hikers and ALDHA members who were killed about a year apart in eerily similar accidents, hit by vehicles while riding bikes near home.

Cold Spring Shelter (1933)—Sleeps 6. Privy. Food-hoist cables available. Shelter built by the CCC. Tentsites are reached *via* a trail on the east side of the Trail 200 yards north on the A.T. Water source is 5 yards in front of the shelter.

Wesser Bald—Formerly a fire tower, the structure atop Wesser Bald is now an observation deck offering panoramic views. The Great Smoky Mountains and Fontana Lake dominate the view to the north.

Wesser Bald Shelter (1994)—Sleeps 8. No privy. This was the first of the “Nantahala design” shelters. Food-hoist cables available. Tentsites available in clearing where the blue-blaze heads to the shelter. Water source is a spring 0.1 mile south on the A.T., then 75 yards on a blue-blazed trail.

Rufus Morgan Shelter (rebuilt 1989)—Sleeps 6. No privy. Located in a small cove, this shelter is named after the Nantahala club’s founder. The water source is a stream across the A.T. from the shelter.



U.S. 19/Nantahala River/Nantahala Outdoor Center—At U.S. 19, the A.T. passes through the Nantahala Outdoor Center (NOC), (828) 488-2175 or (800) 232-7238, <www.noc.com>, an outdoor-adventure center with many services for back-packers; call ahead for shuttles. Between the store and River's End Restaurant, the A.T. crosses a pedestrian bridge over the Nantahala River. ■ **Lodging:** NOC, office hours Sep–Apr 8–5, May–Aug 8–9; after hours, go to Base Camp (behind Relia's Garden Restaurant), a winterized hostel that may be full on weekends, \$17 for bunk space; motel rooms \$44–\$94. NOC Nantahala Inn, \$59–\$99, satellite TV, pets in two rooms only, cabins \$99–\$379 with free cleaning. ■ **Groceries:** Wesser General Store (short-term resupply), M–F 8 a.m.–10 p.m., Sa–Su 11–11. ■ **Restaurants:** River's End Restaurant (8–7) serves B/L/D; Relia's Garden and Sloe Joe's Café, L until 4 (outdoors), open seasonally. ■ **Outfitter:** NOC Outfitters (short-term resupply), 8–8, offers backpacking gear, Coleman and alcohol fuel by the ounce, Esbit and canisters, ATM, stamps, laundry detergent, ATC publications. Pay phone, coin laundry with detergent by the scoop during office hours, restroom, and shower with towel \$2 (except with bunkroom) are located on the southern side of U.S. 19. NOC accepts USPS, UPS, and FedEx packages sent to 13077 Hwy. 19W, Bryson City, NC 28713. Check with the front desk; packages must be marked "Hold for A.T. Hiker." NOC can ship packages; extra charge on weekends.

South 1 mile to *Camping*: Lost Mine Campground, (828) 488-6445, across from NOC on Silvermine Road, sites \$16 Apr–Oct, showers, pay phone, dogs on leash.

East 1 mile to *Groceries*: Nantahala Food Mart with ATM (short-term resupply), daily 7 a.m.–9 p.m. ■ **Lodging:** Carolina Outfitters Cottages, (800) 468-7238, <www.carolinaoutfitters.com>, check-in at Nantahala Food Mart, \$50D, \$10EAP, kitchen, satellite TV, no pets, shuttle to/from Trail. ■ **Camping:** Nantahala Wesser Campground, (828) 488-8708, located near Nantahala Food Market on Wesser Rd; turn right at gem-mine sign; tentsite \$7PP, showers, open Apr–Oct.

East 13 miles on U.S. 19 to Bryson City, N.C. [P.O. ZIP 28713: M–F 8:30–12 & 12:30–4, closed Sa; (828) 488-3481]. Bryson City is a large town with many services, including Ingles Supermarket (long-term resupply), pharmacy, coin laundry, several restaurants, banks with ATM, Western Union, hospital, and several hotels.

Whitewater Rafting—The Nantahala marks the northbounder's first chance at Trail-side whitewater rafting. The French Broad River in Hot Springs, N.C., and the Nolichucky River in Erwin, Tenn., are also whitewater hot-spots. Guided tours on the Nantahala are available through NOC for about \$25 on nonpeak days, but you can rent a raft or "ducky" for less, with shuttles to the put-in point upstream included. Mountain biking and horseback riding also available.

Smoky Mountains Hiking Club—SMHC maintains the 101 miles between the Nantahala River and Davenport Gap. Correspondence should be sent to the SMHC, P.O. Box 1454, Knoxville, TN 37901; <www.smhclub.org>.

Sassafras Gap Shelter (2002)—Sleeps 14. Privy. Located in a ravine 100 yards in on a blue-blazed side trail, this wood-framed shelter features a covered porch and benches. Water source is a reliable spring in front of the shelter.



N.C. 143/Stecoah Gap—A good spring can be found by following the paved road west 200 feet to an overgrown logging road. Spring is located down the logging road on the left.

Brown Fork Gap Shelter (1996)—Sleeps 6. Privy. Constructed by the SMHC, Konnaroock Crew, and the USFS. Water source is a reliable spring to the right of the shelter.

Cable Gap Shelter (1939/1988)—Sleeps 6. Privy. Shelter originally built by the CCC. The water source is a reliable spring in front of the shelter.

Walker Gap—The Yellow Creek Trail leads 2.5 miles west to Fontana Village. However, it is a poorly marked, difficult short-cut to the resort.



N.C. 28/Fontana Dam—East 6 miles to **Lodging:** The Hike Inn, (828) 479-3677, <www.thehikeinn.com>, <hikeinn@graham.main.nc.us>. A hikers-only inn, owned and operated by Jeff and Nancy Hoch. Open Feb 15–July 10, Sep 1–Dec 1, other dates by reservation only. For pick-up, continue north on the A.T. to the Fontana Dam Visitors Center (see below), and call from the pay phone. Thru-hikers, call from NOC or Hot Springs for reservations. Five rooms with max 2 per room. No credit cards. Thru-hiker/long-distance-hiker package reservations required (check in by 4 p.m., check-out 9 a.m. firm), \$60s, \$75D. Rate includes shuttle to and from dam, one load of laundry, evening shuttle to Robbinsville (5–7 p.m.) for dinner and supplies. Section-hikers, \$40S/D (room only). Packages accepted for guests only c/o Hike Inn, 3204 Fontana Rd., Fontana Dam, NC 28733. Shuttles, slack-pack, Coleman and alcohol fuel.

West 2 miles to Fontana Village Resort. **Fontana Dam, N.C. [P.O. ZIP 28733: M–F 8:30–12 & 12:30–4:30, closed Sa; (828) 498-2315]**, is located 2 miles from Fontana Dam within the Fontana Village Resort. *Please note: Some services may close or be under*

reduced hours during off-season, and supplies are limited; most services available by Apr 1. Constructed in 1946 for TVA workers building Fontana Dam, the village is now a seasonal recreational area and resort using many of the original buildings.

■ **Lodging:** Fontana Lodge, <www.fontanavillage.com>, (800) 849-2258, \$69D, EAP up to 4 no charge; cabins also available, Apr–Oct \$99 & up, Nov–Mar \$59 & up.

■ **Groceries:** Fontana General Store (short-term resupply). ■ **Outfitter:** Hazel Creek Outfitter, limited hiker gear and all stove fuels, shuttles available. ■ **Other services:** restaurant, ATM, Internet access, coin laundry, detergent available at outfitters 50¢, ice cream/soda fountain (open in May), mountain-bike rentals, and fitness center. Shuttle to and from Fontana Marina for \$3; dial 265 from the boat-dock house phone. Backcountry permits available.

Fontana Dam Shelter (1982)—Sleeps 24. Restroom with showers and water located at shelter. Known as the “Fontana Hilton,” this spacious shelter is located 0.3 mile south of the dam on TVA land. Pay phone and shower facilities are located at the dam; see below.

Fontana Dam—At 480 feet, Fontana Dam is the highest dam in the eastern United States. This facility offers a visitors center with restrooms and shower that is normally open May–Nov, 9–7.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Miles from Katahdin	Features	Services	Elev.	Miles from Springer
2,015.1	Fontana Dam Visitors Ctr	R, sh, w	1,700	164.0
2,014.7	Little Tennessee River, Fontana Dam; southern boundary, Great Smoky Mtns. National Park	R	1,740	164.4
2,010.7	Shuckstack		3,800	168.4
2,009.5	Birch Spring Gap	C, w	3,680	169.6
2,007.2	Doe Knob		4,520	171.9
2,005.8	Ekaneetlee Gap	w	3,842	173.3
2,004.1	Mollies Ridge Shelter... <i>11.3mS; 2.5mN</i>	S, w	4,570	175.0
2,004.0	Devils Tater Patch		4,775	175.1
2,002.4	Little Abrams Gap		4,120	176.7
2,001.6	Russell Field Shelter... <i>2.5mS; 3.1mN</i>	S, w	4,360	177.5
1,998.7	Eagle Creek Trail to Spence Field Shelter... <i>3.1mS; 6.5mN</i> ; Bote Mtn Trail	E–0.2m S, w	4,915	180.4
1,997.5	Rocky Top		5,440	181.6
1,996.9	Thunderhead (east peak)		5,527	182.2
1,996.6	Beechnut Gap	w	4,920	182.5
1,995.9	Mineral Gap		5,030	183.2
1,993.5	Sugar Tree Gap		4,435	185.6
1,992.4	Derrick Knob Shelter... <i>6.5mS; 5.5mN</i>	S, w	4,880	186.7
1,992.2	Sams Gap	w	4,995	186.9
1,989.6	Buckeye Gap	w	4,817	189.5
1,986.9	Silers Bald Shelter... <i>5.5mS; 1.7mN</i>	S, w	5,460	192.2
1,986.7	Silers Bald		5,607	192.4
1,985.2	Double Spring Gap Shelter... <i>1.7mS; 6.8mN</i>	S, w	5,505	193.9
1,982.7	Clingmans Dome	E–0.5m R, w	6,643	196.4
1,981.1	Mt. Love		6,446	198.0

Miles from Katahdin	Features	Services	Elev.	Miles from Springer
1,978.9	Mt. Collins Shelter... <i>6.8mS; 8mN</i>	W–0.5m S, w	5,870	200.2
1,976.1	Indian Gap	R	5,286	203.0
1,974.4	U.S. 441, Newfound Gap Gatlinburg, TN 37738	R, w (W–15m PO, G, L, M, O, D, f) (E–18m PO, G, L, M, D, f)	5,045	204.7
1,971.7	Boulevard Trail to Mt. LeConte	W–5m L, M	5,695	207.4
1,971.4	Icewater Spring Shelter... <i>8mS; 7.8mN</i>	S, w	5,920	207.7
1,970.6	Charlies Bunion		5,905	208.5
1,968.6	Porters Gap, The Sawteeth		5,577	210.5
1,965.3	Bradley's View		5,200	213.8
1,964.0	Peck's Corner Shelter... <i>7.8mS; 5.6mN</i>	w (E–0.4m S, w)	5,280	215.1
1,961.3	Mt. Sequoyah		6,069	217.8
1,959.8	Mt. Chapman		6,417	219.3
1,958.8	Tri-Corner Knob Shelter... <i>5.6mS; 7.7mN</i>	S, w	5,920	220.3
1,957.6	Guyot Spur		6,360	221.5
1,957.0	Guyot Spring	w	6,150	222.1
1,956.9	Mt. Guyot Side Trail		6,395	222.2
1,955.0	Snake Den Ridge Trail		5,600	224.1
1,951.6	Cosby Knob		5,150	227.5
1,951.1	Cosby Knob Shelter... <i>7.7mS; 7.1mN</i>	S, w	4,700	228.0
1,948.3	Side Trail to Mt. Cammerer Fire Tower	W–0.6m	5,000	230.8
1,947.8	Spring	w	4,300	231.3
1,946.2	Spring	w	3,700	232.9
1,944.0	Davenport Gap Shelter... <i>7.1mS; 10.7mN</i>	S, w	2,600	235.1
1,943.1	Davenport Gap, Tenn. 32, N.C. 284; eastern boundary, Great Smoky Mtns. National Park	R (E–1.3m Ranger Station; 2.3m C)	1,975	236.0

Established in 1934, the Smokies is the most visited of the traditional national parks; for this reason, it is especially important to practice Leave No Trace in this area. The highest elevation on the A.T. is here at Clingmans Dome at 6,643 feet. The Smokies also has the most rainfall and snowfall on the A.T. in the South, and many hikers are caught off-guard by the snow and cold temperatures that the high elevation means. On the other hand, extreme drought in 2007 left many water sources extraordinarily low or dry.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park—<www.nps.gov/grsm>. The Trail through the park officially begins for northbounders on the northern side of Fontana Dam; for southbounders, Davenport Gap is the beginning. In recent years, the park has hosted more than nine million visitors annually. Home to the most diverse forest in North America, the park includes more than 100 species of trees, 1,570 species of flowering plants, 60 species of mammals, more than 25 different salamanders, and 2,000 varieties of mushrooms.

Seasonal and temporary closures can be found at <www.nps.gov/grsm>.

Backcountry Permits—Backcountry permits must be obtained before entering the park. A self-registration facility is located near the pay phone at the Fontana Dam visitors center (page 30). Forms and a deposit box are also available at the “Fontana Hilton” for northbounders. Southbounders—if you do not get a permit at Bluff Mountain Outfitters in Hot Springs, you must trek 1.3 miles east on Tenn. 32 from Davenport Gap to the park’s Big Creek Ranger Station. Section-hikers (considered to be anyone not beginning and ending a hike 50 miles outside the park) can make reservations by calling the GSMNP Reservations Office at (865) 436-1231. Anyone caught without a permit will be issued a \$125 ticket!

Human Waste and Privies—In past years, the park’s administration shunned privies at backcountry facilities. Instead, “toilet areas” were designated where backpackers are supposed to dig cat holes and bury their waste. In the 1990s, a privy-building campaign, underwritten by ATC and SMHC, resulted in new facilities at the more heavily used shelters. Although privies mainly provide an aesthetically acceptable way to deal with many hikers’ refusal to use proper Leave No Trace methods, they are costly to maintain and a management last resort. The best decision is to do your business away from the shelter area before you get to camp or after you leave. Pick a spot far from any trails and 200 feet or more from any water, and practice Leave No Trace methods.

Horses—Within the park, half of the A.T. is open to horseback riding; horse users may also share A.T. shelters. SMHC and ATC have made a concerted effort to resolve issues with the horse users, who have helped with major rehabilitation and other projects along the Trail in that half.

Bears—Between 400 and 600 bears reside in the park. They become more active in the early spring and remain active through the fall. Following a few simple guidelines can help keep bears and other animals away from people and safe within the park. Be sure to hang food on the provided bear-bag system, and do not feed or leave food for these wild creatures to eat. Many shelters no longer have chain-link fences to keep bears out. Whenever possible, eat away from the shelters.

Dogs—Dogs are not permitted on trails in the park. Hikers violating this rule will be fined up to \$500. Those hiking with dogs should arrange to board their pets. Several kennels provide this service. Contact Standing Bear Farm Hiker Hostel, (423) 487-0014, <curtisvown@gmail.com>, for its details. Loving Care Kennels, (865) 453-2028, in Pigeon Forge, Tenn.; owner Lida O'Neill will pick up and drop off your dog at Fontana Dam and Davenport Gap for \$250 for one dog, \$400 for two dogs. Rippling Water Kennels, <www.ripplingwaterkennel.com>, (828) 488-2091, will pick up, board, and deliver pets for \$250, up to 7 days; \$50 deposit, reservations necessary.

Pests and Disease—At Clingmans Dome and throughout the park, you will witness changes in the Smokies' ecosystem. The most obvious has been the death of conifers at higher elevations. Atmospheric pollution weakens the trees, which makes it easier for the balsam woolly adelgid to attack and eventually kill the park's Fraser firs. The small, waxy insects attack the firs, which then overreact to the feeding al-degids, clogging their own transport tissues. Trees die within five years of infestation. Other pests and diseases affecting the park's ecosystem include chestnut blight, southern pine beetle, hemlock woolly adelgid, and dogwood anthracnose.

Air Pollution—This is one of the Smokies' most conspicuous problems. Pollution can drop visibility from 93 to 22 miles on an otherwise clear day. Ironically, this effect enhances sunset colors. Along with sulfur, nitrogen provides the basis for acid deposition, which includes acid rain. Ozone can make breathing difficult and causes visible damage to black cherry, milkweed, and thirty other species of plants in the park. The park's ozone, nitrogen, and sulfur levels are among the nation's highest and often remain high longer than in nearby urban communities.

Shelter Renovation/Replacement—The SMHC and the ATC are working to rebuild or replace all the shelters in the Smokies. Work has been completed at Double Spring Gap, Mollies Ridge, Spence Field, Derrick Knob, Silers Bald, Icewater Springs, Pecks Corner, Tricorner Knob, Cosby Knob, and Davenport Gap shelters. To improve shelter sanitation, the rebuilt shelters do not have chain-link fencing separating shelter users from park wildlife. Keep a clean camp!

Shelter Policy—Park regulations require that you stay in a shelter. While other backpackers must make reservations to use backcountry shelters, thru-hikers are exempt from this regulation, and, from Mar 15 to Jun 15, four spaces at each A.T. shelter are reserved for thru-hikers. If the shelter is occupied by reservation and four thru-hikers, however, additional thru-hikers should tent close by and use the bear cables. Because only thru-hikers are permitted to tent-camp at shelters, the burden is on them to make room inside shelters for others who have reserved space.

Shelters South of Newfound Gap—Seven shelters and a campsite are located between the Little Tennessee River (Fontana Dam) and Newfound Gap.

Birch Spring Campsite—Former shelter site with water, bear cables, and tentpads.

Mollies Ridge Shelter (1961/2003)—Sleeps 12. No privy. Food-hoist cables available. Legend says the area was named for a Cherokee maiden who froze to death looking for a lost hunter and that her ghost still haunts the ridge. Water source is a somewhat reliable spring 200 yards to the right of the shelter.

Russell Field Shelter (1961)—Sleeps 14. No privy. This section of Trail is popular with riders. Food-hoist cables available. Water source is a spring 150 yards down the Russell Field Trail toward Cades Cove. A short walk beyond the spring is an open, grassy area with views into Cades Cove; the Russell Gregory family grazed stock here in the 1800s.

Spence Field Shelter (1963/2005)—Sleeps 12. Privy. Shelter is located 0.2 mile east on the Eagle Creek Trail. Food-hoist cables available. This section of Trail is popular with riders and bears. Spence Field, to the north of the shelter, offers azaleas, blueberries, and open views into North Carolina and Tennessee from the largest grassy bald in the Smokies. James Spence cleared 100 acres here in the 1830s for cattle grazing. Water source is a reliable spring 150 yards down the Eagle Creek Trail.

Derrick Knob Shelter (1961)—Sleeps 12. No privy. Food-hoist cables available. Water source is a reliable spring near the shelter.

Silers Bald Shelter (1961/2001)—Sleeps 12. No privy. Food-hoist cables available. Named for Jesse Siler, who once grazed stock here. The increasingly overgrown bald 0.3 mile north of the shelter offers views of Clingmans Dome and sunsets over Cove Mountain. Water source is to the right; a trail leads 75 yards to a reliable spring.

Double Spring Gap Shelter (1963)—Sleeps 12. Privy. Food-hoist cables available. Two unfortunate hikers were killed by lightning inside this shelter in 1980. Gap was named to indicate the existence of two springs, one on each side of the state line and both now unreliable. The better water source is on the North Carolina side, 15 yards from the crest; second source is on the Tennessee side, 35 yards from the crest.

Clingmans Dome—At 6,643 feet, this is the highest point on the A.T. There are no on-the-ground views from the tree-clad summit, but the observation tower provides 360-degree views. The summit is usually busy; a park road leads to within 0.5 mile of the tower. Restroom and water are available near the day-hiker parking lot. From here to the northern end of the park, Fraser firs and red spruce are now dying *en masse*—a dramatic change from the southernmost 30 miles of the park.

Mt. Collins Shelter (1960)—Sleeps 12. Privy. Food-hoist cables available. Nestled in spruce thicket, this mountain is named for Robert Collins, who guided geographer Arnold Guyot's explorations in the Smokies in the 1850s. Water source is a small spring 200 yards beyond the shelter on the Sugarland Mountain Trail.



U.S. 441/Newfound Gap—The only road crossing along the Trail in the Smokies. Great Smoky Mountain National Park shuttle, (828) 497-5296, makes regularly scheduled stops at Newfound Gap, Gatlinburg, Tenn., and Cherokee, N. C. (May–Dec); hiker drop-off/pick-up at any GSMNP pull-over by arrangement; \$12 round-trip cash or travelers checks, \$7 one-way; purchase tickets from driver or at welcome center on Tsalali Blvd./U.S. 441N. A North Carolina state grant to the Cherokee makes the shuttle possible.

East 18 miles to Cherokee, N.C., [P.O. ZIP 28719: M-F 9-4:30, Sa 10-11:30; (828) 497-3891], <www.cherokee-nc.com>, home of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee and its reservation, with more than 40 motels and most major services. Attractions include the Museum of the Cherokee Indian, Unto These Hills Mountainside Theatre, and Qualia Arts & Crafts center.

West 15 miles to the resort town of **Gatlinburg, Tenn. [P.O. ZIP 37738: M–F 9–5, Sa 10–11; (865) 436-3229]**, <www.gatlinburg.com>, with most major services. Most current information on hiker-friendly services is available at the Happy Hiker or Smoky Mountain Outfitters. There's plenty of traffic through Newfound Gap, with its large parking lot, shuttle (see above), and scenic overlook; usually an easy hitch into Gatlinburg. Once in town, a trolley service, Nov–Mar 10–6, Apr–Oct 8–12, takes you to most services and costs a quarter. ■ **Lodging:** Grand Prix Motel, (865) 436-4561, <www.grandprixmotel>, 235 Ski Mountain Road, Gatlinburg, TN 37738, near edge of town closest to the park, hiker rate, B, Internet access, laundry, shuttles to Trail, accepts mail drops. Nearly 100 other hotels and motels are in Gatlinburg. ■ **Restaurants:** More than 70, including Shoney's, with AYCE B and soup/salad bar, and most fast-food chains. ■ **Groceries:** Battle's Food Center and Food City (both long-term resupply). ■ **Outfitters:** The Happy Hiker, (800) HIKER01 or (865) 436-6000, <www.happyhiker.com>, open 9–5 daily, fuel and denatured alcohol by the ounce, holds packages and will ship packages for you *via* UPS or other means. Send packages to the Happy Hiker, 905 River Rd., Suite 5, Gatlinburg, TN 37738. To get to the Happy Hiker, turn left at the first stop light as you enter town, then walk one block to the small shopping center. Smoky Mountain Outfitters, (865) 430-2267, 9–6 M–Sa, 9–5 Su, canister fuel, white gas, and denatured alcohol by the ounce, holds mail drops, 453 Brookside Village Way, Gatlinburg, TN 37738. Take the “blue trolley” to Winery Square. ■ **Other services:** Banks with ATM, doctor. ■ **Dog shuttle/kennel:** A Walk in the Woods, <www.awalkinthewoods.com>, (865) 436-8283, dog-shuttling and boarding.

Boulevard Trail—This side trail, located 2.7 miles north of Newfound Gap, leads 5 miles to the summit of Mt. LeConte. A shelter and LeConte Lodge, (865) 429-5704, <www.lecontelodge.com>, are located at the top (reservations required; \$116PP includes B/D). The 10-mile round-trip to this spectacular mountain may be worth it, if you have the time.

Shelters North of Newfound Gap—GSMNP has five shelters between Newfound Gap and Davenport Gap.

Icewater Spring Shelter (1963/1999)—Sleeps 12. Privy. Food-hoist cables available. Water source for this heavily used shelter is 50 yards north on the A.T.

Charles Bunion—Views of Mt. LeConte to the west. It got its name on a hike in 1929, when Charlie Conner and Horace Kephart, an A.T. pioneer and famed writer/conservationist of the period, discovered this feature, created by a landslide after a disastrous rain the same year. The two decided the rocky outcropping stuck out like a bunion on Charlie's foot. The narrow path was blasted out by the Park Service.

Pecks Corner Shelter (1958/2000)—Sleeps 12. Privy. Food-hoist cables available. Follow the Hughes Ridge Trail 0.4 mile to a junction with the side trail to the shelter. This shelter gets its name from a corner marker for two state land grants to the Peck family. Water source is in front of the shelter 50 yards.

Tri-Corner Knob Shelter (1961/2004)—Sleeps 12. Privy. Located on the North Carolina side of the A.T., this is the most remote shelter in the GSMNP. The water source for this shelter is a reliable spring 10 yards in front of the shelter. In wet weather, this shelter may be a very soggy place.

Cosby Knob Shelter (1959)—Sleeps 12. Privy. Shelter is located 100 yards east down a side trail. Food-hoist cables available. Water source is a reliable spring 35 yards downhill and in front of the shelter.

Mt. Cammerer Side Trail—This trail to the west leads 0.6 mile to the Mt. Cammerer firetower, a historic stone-and-timber structure originally built in 1939 by the CCC and rebuilt in 1994. Panoramic views from its platform.

Davenport Gap Shelter (1961/1998)—Sleeps 12. No privy. Named for William Davenport, who surveyed the state line in 1821. Your last, or first, GSMNP A.T. shelter, dubbed the "Smokies Sheraton." Water source is a spring to the left of the shelter.



Tenn. 32, N.C. 284/Davenport Gap—East 1.3 miles to Big Creek Ranger Station, (828) 486-5910, with phone and self-registration backcountry permits (south-bounders—see note on page 33 about registration); 1 mile farther to the station's seasonal campsites, \$12 per site, no showers. The Chestnut Branch Trail leads out from the ranger station and, in two miles, meets the A.T. one mile south of Davenport Gap Shelter.

North Carolina & Tennessee Border

Miles from Katahdin	Features	Services	Elev.	Miles from Springer
1,943.1	Davenport Gap, Tenn. 32, N.C. 284; eastern boundary, Great Smoky Mtns. National Park	R (E-1.3m Ranger Station; 2.3m C)	1,975	236.0
1,941.8	State Line Branch	C, w	1,600	237.3
1,941.6	Pigeon River	R	1,400	237.5
1,941.2	I-40	R	1,500	237.9
1,940.7	Green Corner Rd	R (W-0.1m H, G, cl, sh, f, @)	1,800	238.4
1,938.4	Painter Branch	C, w	3,100	240.7
1,937.5	Spanish Oak Gap		3,730	241.6
1,936.0	Snowbird Mtn		4,263	243.1
1,935.5	Campsite	C, w	4,100	243.6
1,933.5	Deep Gap, Groundhog Creek Shelter... <i>10.7mS; 8.4mN</i>	E-0.2m S, w	2,850	245.6
1,930.6	Brown Gap	R, C, w	3,500	248.5
1,927.9	Max Patch Rd; N.C. 1182	R	4,380	251.2
1,927.1	Max Patch Summit		4,629	252.0
1,925.3	Roaring Fork Shelter... <i>8.4mS; 4.9mN</i>	S, w	3,950	253.8
1,921.7	Lemon Gap, N.C. 1182, Tenn. 107	R	3,550	257.4
1,920.4	Walnut Mtn Shelter... <i>4.9mS; 9.9mN</i>	S, w	4,260	258.7
1,918.0	Bluff Mtn		4,686	261.1
1,916.4	Big Rock Spring	w	3,730	262.7
1,913.9	Garenflo Gap	R	2,500	265.2
1,910.5	Deer Park Mtn Shelter... <i>9.9mS; 14.2mN</i>	S, w	2,330	268.6
1,907.3	U.S. 25 & 70, N.C. 209 Hot Springs, NC 28743	R, PO, H, C, G, L, M, O, cl, sh, f, @	1,326	271.8
1,905.9	Lovers Leap Rock		1,820	273.2
1,904.0	Pump Gap		2,130	275.1
1,902.4	Campsite	C, w	2,490	276.7
1,901.4	U.S. 25 & 70 overpass, Tanyard Gap	R	2,270	277.7

Miles from Katahdin	Features	Services	Elev.	Miles from Springer
1,899.1	Rich Mtn Fire Tower Side Trail	C, w	3,600	280.0
1,898.0	Hurricane Gap	R	2,900	281.1
1,896.3	Spring Mtn Shelter... <i>14.2mS; 8.6mN</i>	S, w	3,300	282.8
1,894.8	Spring	w	3,190	284.3
1,892.6	Allen Gap, N.C. 208, Tenn. 70	R, w (Paint Creek W–350 yds)	2,234	286.5
1,891.0	Log Cabin Drive	R (W–0.7m C, L, G, sh, f, @)	2,560	288.1
1,887.7	Little Laurel Shelter... <i>8.6mS; 6.8mN</i>	S, w	3,620	291.4
1,886.4	Camp Creek Bald, side trail to fire tower	R	4,750	292.7
1,884.7	Spring	w	4,390	294.4
1,884.4	Blackstack Cliffs		4,420	294.7
1,883.4	Big Firescald Knob	w	4,360	295.7
1,880.9	Jerry Cabin Shelter... <i>6.8mS; 5.9mN</i>	S, w	4,150	298.2
1,879.0	Big Butt	C	4,750	300.1
1,877.7	Spring	w	4,480	301.4
1,877.4	Shelton Graves		4,490	301.7
1,875.0	Flint Mtn Shelter... <i>5.9mS; 8.9mN</i>	S, w	3,570	304.1
1,874.1	Campsite	C, w	3,400	305.0
1,872.3	Devil Fork Gap; N.C. 212	R	3,100	306.8
1,871.8	Rector Laurel Rd	R	2,960	307.3
1,869.0	Frozen Knob		4,579	310.1
1,868.4	Big Flat	C, w	4,160	310.7
1,867.4	Rice Gap	R	3,800	311.7
1,866.2	Hogback Ridge Shelter... <i>8.9mS; 10.2mN</i>	E–0.1m S; 0.3m w	4,255	312.9
1,865.6	High Rock		4,460	313.5
1,863.8	Sams Gap, U.S. 23, I-26	R	3,850	315.3
1,863.1	Springs	w	4,000	316.0
1,861.4	Street Gap		4,100	317.7
1,860.1	Low Gap	C, w	4,300	319.0

Miles from Katahdin	Features	Services	Elev.	Miles from Springer
1,858.1	Spring	w	4,850	321.0
1,857.3	Big Bald	(C, w N on A.T. 0.2m then W 0.3m)	5,516	321.8
1,857.0	Big Stamp	W-0.3m C, w	5,300	322.1
1,856.1	Bald Mtn Shelter... <i>10.2mS; 10.6mN</i>	S, w	5,100	323.0
1,855.7	Campsite	C, w	4,890	323.4
1,854.7	Little Bald		5,220	324.4
1,852.7	Whistling Gap	C, w	3,650	326.4
1,852.4	Trail to High Rocks		4,100	326.7
1,850.9	Campsite	C, w	3,490	328.2
1,850.4	Spivey Gap, U.S. 19W	R	3,200	328.7
1,849.8	Ogelsby Branch	w	3,800	329.3
1,845.7	Spring	w	3,300	333.4
1,845.5	No Business Knob Shelter... <i>10.6mS; 10.5mN</i>	S, w	3,180	333.6
1,843.1	Temple Hill Gap		2,850	336.0
1,839.2	Chestoa Bridge, Nolichucky River Erwin, TN 37650	R (W-3.8m PO, C, H, G, M, L, cl, sh, f)	1,700	339.9
1,837.9	Nolichucky River Valley	R	1,780	341.2
1,835.0	Curley Maple Gap Shelter... <i>10.5mS; 12.8mN</i>	S, w	3,070	344.1
1,830.9	Indian Grave Gap, Tenn. 395, N.C. 197	R (W-7m Erwin, Tenn.)	3,350	348.2
1,829.8	USFS 230	R	3,980	349.3
1,828.6	Beauty Spot		4,437	350.5
1,828.1	Beauty Spot Gap	R, C, w	4,120	351.0
1,827.1	Deep Gap	C, w	4,100	352.0
1,826.5	USFS 230	R	4,660	352.6
1,825.5	Unaka Mtn		5,180	353.6
1,825.2	Spring	w	4,750	353.9
1,826.3	Low Gap	w	3,900	352.8
1,822.2	Cherry Gap Shelter... <i>12.8mS; 9.3mN</i>	S, w	3,900	356.9

Miles from Katahdin	Features	Services	Elev.	Miles from Springer
1,819.1	Iron Mtn Gap, Tenn. 107, N.C. 226 Unicoi, TN 37692	R (E–3m G, f) (W–4.7m G, M; 10.3m PO, G, M, D)	3,723	360.0
1,817.8	Campsite	C, w	3,950	361.3
1,814.9	Greasy Creek Gap	R (E–0.6m H, G, C, M, sh, f, @) (W–0.2m w)	4,034	364.2
1,814.1	Campsite	C, w	4,110	365.0
1,813.0	Clyde Smith Shelter... <i>9.3mS; 6.5mN</i>	W–0.1m S, w	4,400	366.1
1,812.1	Little Rock Knob		4,918	367.0
1,809.9	Hughes Gap	R	4,040	369.2
1,808.1	Ash Gap	C, w	5,350	371.0
1,807.3	Trail to Roan High Bluff, Rhododendron Gardens	R, w	6,200	371.8
1,806.6	Roan High Knob Shelter... <i>6.5mS; 5mN</i>	S, w	6,275	372.5
1,805.1	Carvers Gap, Tenn. 143, N.C. 261	R, w	5,512	374.0
1,803.2	Trail to Grassy Ridge	E–0.5m C, w	5,770	375.9
1,801.6	Stan Murray Shelter... <i>5mS; 2mN</i>	S, w	5,050	377.5
1,799.9	Yellow Mtn Gap, Overmountain Shelter... <i>2mS; 9mN</i>	C (E–0.2m w; 0.3m S)	4,550	379.2
1,798.3	Little Hump Mtn		5,459	380.8
1,797.0	Bradley Gap	C, w	4,950	382.1
1,796.1	Hump Mtn		5,587	383.0
1,793.7	Doll Flats, N.C.–Tenn. State Line	C, w	4,600	385.4
1,791.3	Spring	w	3,060	387.8
1,791.2	Apple House Shelter... <i>9mS; 9.3mN</i>	S, w	3,000	387.9
1,790.7	U.S. 19E Elk Park, NC 08622; Roan Mtn, TN 37687	R (E–0.5m M; 2.5m PO, G, M; 9m PO, G, M, f, cl, @) (W–0.3m H, C, L, f, sh; 3.4m PO, G, M, D, V; 7.5m C)	2,895	388.4

This section has plentiful 360-degree views and ever-changing scenery flowing from rich mountain coves, boreal forests, and heath balds. Highlights are Max Patch, Big Bald, Beauty Spot, Unaka Mountain, Roan Mountain at 6,285 feet (where an annual rhododendron festival is held), and the open, grassy bald of Hump Mountain.

Carolina Mountain Club—CMC maintains the 92.7 miles between Davenport Gap and Spivey Gap. Send correspondence to CMC, P.O. Box 68, Asheville, NC 28802; <www.carolinamtnclub.com>.

Due to trailhead vandalism, the supervisor of trails for the CMC advises, “We do not recommend leaving cars at trailheads for anything more than a day trip.”

Water sources—Several water sources are located between Davenport Gap and Deep Gap. State Line Branch may be polluted.



Green Corner Road—West 0.1 mile to **Hostel**: Standing Bear Farm Hiker Hostel, (423) 487-0014, <www.standingbearfarm.com>, <curtisvowen@gmail.com>; operated by Maria Guzman and Curtis Owen; \$20pp cabin, \$15 bunkhouse or tentsite, includes hot shower, laundry, phone, kennel services (call for details), Internet \$5/hour, kitchen; campstore with enough Trail foods and supplies to get you to Hot Springs or Fontana, including stove fuels by the ounce plus cook-your-own pizzas and sandwiches; dogs outside \$5/night; shuttles available; parking \$2 per day; debit and credit cards accepted; for all services without stay, donations accepted. Holds packages sent to 4255 Green Corner Rd., Hartford, TN 37753. Unclaimed parcels will go into the hiker box. *Directions*: After walking under I-40, continue north on the A.T. 1.0 mile beyond the stone stairs to the first gravel road (Green Corner Rd.), turn left, walk 200 yards to white farmhouse.

Groundhog Creek Shelter (1939)—Sleeps 6. Privy. Stone shelter located 0.2 mile on a blue-blazed side trail. Water source is a reliable spring to the left of the shelter.

Max Patch—The site of an old homestead and logging camp, Max Patch was originally forested, but early inhabitants cleared the mountaintop to graze sheep and cattle. The summit also has been used as a landing strip for small planes. In 1982, the USFS purchased the 392-acre grassy-top mountain for the A.T. and now uses mowing and controlled burns to maintain its bald appearance. The wide summit,

at 4,629 feet, offers panoramic views of the Smokies to the south and a glimpse of Mt. Mitchell (at 6,684 feet, the highest peak east of the Mississippi) to the east.

Roaring Fork Shelter (2005)—Sleeps 8. Privy. Two water sources, both located on the A.T., 800 ft. north and south of side trail to shelter.

Caution: Recent reports indicate problem bears are frequently visiting both the Roaring Fork and Walnut Mountain shelters and grabbing food bags hung too close to the ground. Hikers at these sites should be extra cautious and diligently follow LNT practices.

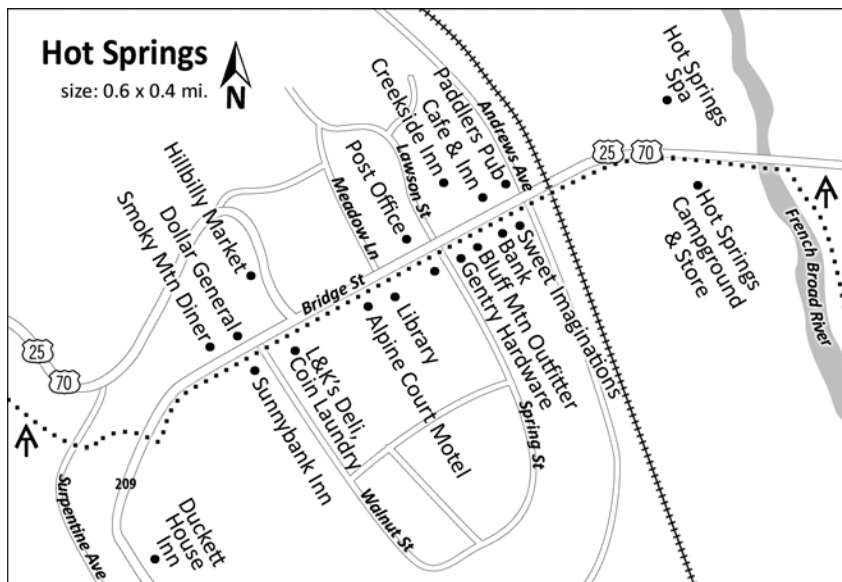
Walnut Mountain Shelter (1938)—Sleeps 6. Privy. An old shelter, with a water source located down the blue-blazed trail to the left of Rattlesnake Trail; difficult to locate, may be seasonal.

Deer Park Mountain Shelter (1938)—Sleeps 5. Privy. A former farmstead; the water source is located on the trail to the shelter.



N.C. 209/Hot Springs, N.C. [P.O. ZIP 28743: M–F 8:30–11:30 & 1–4, Sa 8:30–10:30; (828) 622-3242]. The A.T., now marked by special diamonds in the sidewalk,

passes through the center of Hot Springs on Bridge Street, and most services are located on the Trail. ■ **Lodging:** Duckett House B&B, (828) 622-7621, <www.duckettthouseinn.com>, \$50PP plus tax including B and laundry (\$9.50 B for nonguests; make reservation); bunkhouse \$15PP plus tax, limited to 4 people, includes shower; laundry \$4, includes soap; Internet access when available; work-for-stay possible; will hold UPS and FedEx packages, for reserved guests only, sent to 433 Lance Ave., Hot Springs, NC 28743. The Sunnysbank Inn, (828) 622-7206, owned by Elmer Hall, located at the white Victorian house across the street from the Dollar Store; thru-hiker rates \$20PP, and organic vegetarian meals, \$6 B, \$10 D; work exchange is possible; no tents allowed; holds packages for guests mailed to 26 Walnut St., P.O. Box 233, Hot Springs, NC 28743. Creek Ridge Camping, (828) 622-9588, <www.creekridge-camping.com>; camping, chalets, and cabins from \$20; dog-friendly, \$5 per dog. Alpine Court Motel, (828) 622-3231, \$44S, \$66D, subject to change; credit cards not accepted; no dogs permitted in rooms. Hot Springs Resort and Spa, (828) 622-7267, <www.hotspringsnc.com>, short-term resupply; thru-hiker cabin rate \$50–\$72, \$5EAP up to 5; tentsites \$5PP up to 4; shower only, \$2. ■ **Groceries:** Bluff Mountain Outfitters and Hillbilly Market (both long-term resupply); L&K's Deli (short-term resupply); Hot Springs Camp Store (short-term resupply), grill with pizza, BBQ,



hoagies. ■ **Restaurants:** Smoky Mountain Diner, B/L/D; Rock Bottom Sports Grill, L/D, ask about lodging; Sweet Imaginations, W–Su, Mar–Nov, deli and ice cream. ■ **Outfitter:** Bluff Mountain Outfitters, (828) 622-7162, <www.bluffmountain.com>; owners, Dan Gallagher and Wayne Crosby; a full-service outfitter with fax service, ATM, Internet access, shuttle; packages can be sent to 152 Bridge St., P.O. Box 114, Hot Springs, NC 28743; ships UPS and FedEx packages. ■ **Internet access:** library, 88 Bridge St. (on A.T.), call (828) 622-3584 for hours. ■ **Other services:** coin laundry (L&K's Deli); bank; Dollar General; Gentry Hardware with Coleman fuel by the ounce; The Yellow Teapot book exchange.

Whitewater Rafting—Rafting companies offer guided trips on the French Broad River: Huck Finn River Adventures, (877) 520-4658; Nantahala Outdoor Center, (800) 232-7238; Blue Ridge Resort, (800) 303-7238.

Southbound permits for Smokies—Southbounders must have a backcountry permit before entering Great Smoky Mountains National Park (see page 33 for details). Permits can be obtained at Bluff Mountain Outfitters, (828) 622-7162, Sa–Su 9–5.

Hot Springs Spa—(828) 622-7676. At the northern end of town, on the southern bank of the French Broad River, the spa offers baths and massages at the famous therapeutic mineral baths for which the town was named. The springs were purchased in 1990 by Anne and Eugene Hicks, who developed the natural resource by adding Jacuzzi baths and piping in the 105-degree water. The springs have attracted people to the area since the late 1700s. During World War I, a detention center/prison was constructed on the spot to hold German prisoners of war, and many German-American prisoners enjoyed the springs so much that they stayed in the area after the war. During the 1800s, literature promoting the springs claimed the water could “bring vigor to a wasted frame”—just the remedy for worn-out hikers.

Spring Mountain Shelter (1938)—Sleeps 5. Privy. The shelter is located on the west side of the Trail. Water source is 75 yards down a blue-blazed trail on the east side of the A.T.

Allen Gap—Paint Creek is 350 yards west, but water quality is questionable.



Log Cabin Drive—West 0.7 mile to **Lodging:** Hemlock Hollow Farm Shoppe and Cabins, (423) 787-0917, <hemlockhiker@wildblue.net>, open all year. Go west for a few hundred yards on a dirt/rock road to Log Cabin Drive (gravel road). Turn left, and follow for 0.6 mile to paved Viking Mountain Rd. Shop is across the road on Chandler Circle. Free water and a.m. coffee for all hikers. Heated cabin \$480; heated bunkhouse with kitchenette \$20; linens \$3; tentsite \$12 per tent; shower & towel and ride back to Trail included with all overnight stays; shower & towel only, \$3. Campstore (short-term resupply); good variety of hiker foods, cold drinks, fresh fruit, hot soup or chili most days during spring; all types of fuel; first-aid and limited outfitter supplies. New in 2010: restaurant serving meals for guests. Hiker dogs, \$2/day. Accepts mail drops at 645 Chandler Circle, Greenville, TN 37743. Will send out packages. Shuttles available. Free Internet access.

Little Laurel Shelter (1967)—Sleeps 5. Privy. Water source is 100 yards down a blue-blazed trail behind the shelter.

Jerry Cabin Shelter (1968)—Sleeps 6. Privy. Water source is on a small knoll, up a path found on the opposite side of the A.T. CMC member and honorary ALDHA life member Sam Waddle was the caretaker of this shelter and 2.9 miles of the Trail, from Round Knob to Big Butt, for 26 years until his death February 1, 2005. Sam had a good sense of humor and was responsible for a light bulb and telephone installed on the shelter

wall. Sam's volunteer efforts transformed this shelter from "the dirtiest shelter on the entire Trail to one of the cleanest," according to Ed Garvey, by hauling out an estimated 20 bushels of litter. He was devoted to the A.T. and an inspiration to all volunteers who share the commitment it takes to make a difference. The electric outlet and telephone may be gone, but Sam's legacy will live forever.

Shelton Graves—North of Big Butt is the final resting place of William and David Shelton, who lived in Madison County, N.C., but enlisted in the Union army during the Civil War. While returning to a family gathering during the war, the uncle and nephew were ambushed near here and killed by Confederate troops.

Flint Mountain Shelter (1988)—Sleeps 8. Privy. Site of one of the more unusual animal encounters in Trail history. In 1994, a sleeping thru-hiker was bitten on the hand by a fox in the middle of the night, despite the presence of other hikers and two dogs. Water source is on the A.T. north of the shelter.

Hogback Ridge Shelter (1986)—Sleeps 6. Privy. Water source is a spring 0.3 mile on a side trail near the shelter.

Big Bald—True to its name, Big Bald offers 360-degree views at an elevation of 5,516 feet. From 1802 to 1834, the bald was inhabited by a cantankerous hermit named David Greer. Spurned by a woman, he retreated to the mountaintop where he lived in a small, cave-like structure (no longer visible). He declared himself sovereign of the mountain and eventually killed a man, only to be acquitted on grounds of insanity. The life of "Hog Greer," called so by the neighbors because he lived like one, ended when a local blacksmith shot him in the back; the blacksmith was never charged. Greer Bald eventually became known as Big Bald. A golf and ski resort, Wolf Laurel, is clearly visible from the summit of Big Bald. A spring and campsite can be found by following the A.T. 0.2 mile north of the summit to a dirt road and then walking west 0.3 mile down the dirt road.

Bald Mountain Shelter (1988)—Sleeps 10. Privy. This shelter is one of the highest on the A.T. (5,100 feet), and the area surrounding the shelter is too fragile for tenting. Water source is a spring located on the side trail to the shelter.

Tennessee Eastman Hiking Club—TEHC maintains the 134.8 miles between Spivey Gap and Damascus. Correspondence should be sent to TEHC, P.O. Box 511, Kingsport, TN 37662; <www.tehcc.org>.

No Business Knob Shelter (1963)—Sleeps 6. No privy. Surrounded by large Fraser magnolias and mammoth hemlocks, this concrete-block shelter was built by the Forest Service. Reliable water is found 0.2 mile south of the shelter on the A.T.

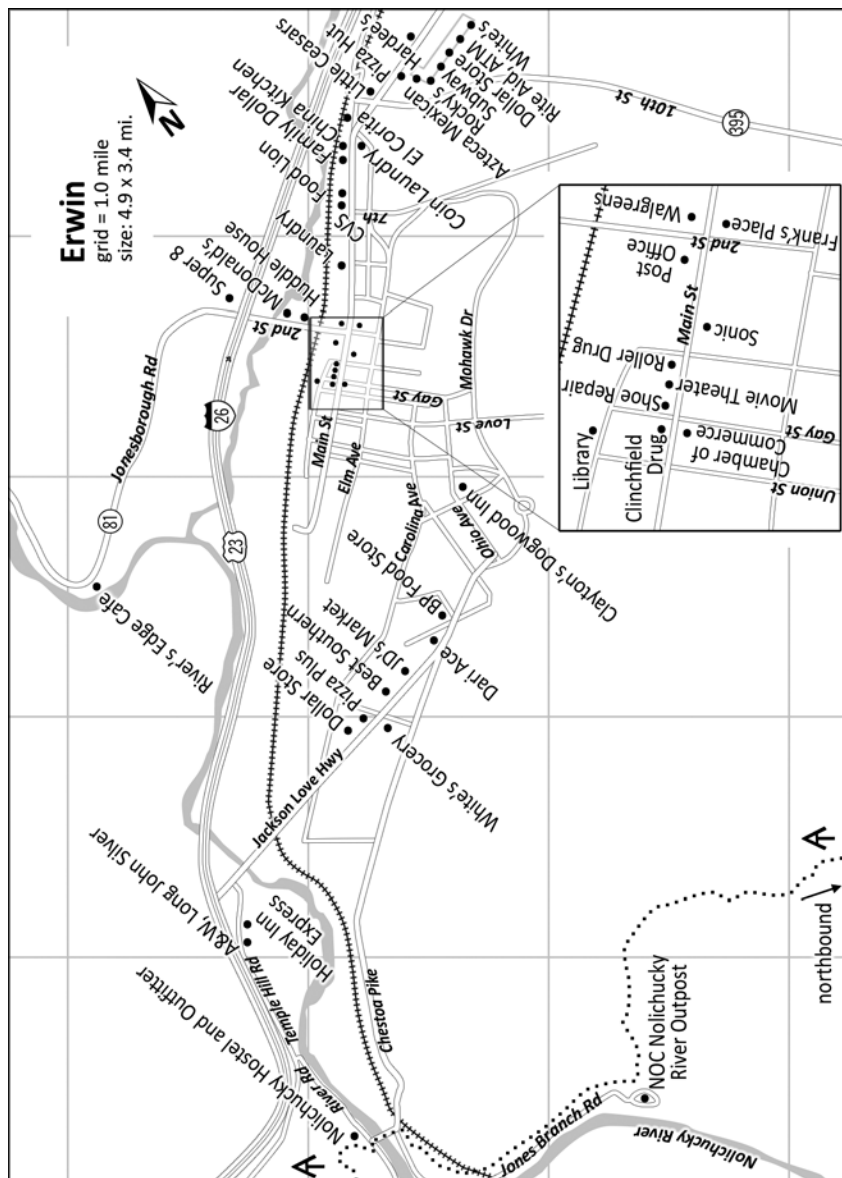


Chestoa Bridge/Erwin, Tenn. [P.O. ZIP 37650: M–F 8:30–4:45; Sa 10–12; (423) 743-9422]. **Hostel:** Nolicucky Hostel and Outfitters; owners, John and Charlotte Shores; (423) 735-0548; <www.unclejohnnys.net>; 151 River Road, Erwin, TN 37650; where A.T. crosses River Road. Hostel \$15/night; private cabins \$20–\$45s,

\$40–\$85D, group rates for 3 or more hikers; camping \$8PP; showers with towel free with stay, shower without stay \$3; laundry \$4 load; dog-friendly; shuttles available; free Internet, WiFi, bicycles, and video library available. Outfitter store sells most normal fuel and gear. Shipments accepted addressed to 151 River Rd, Erwin, TN 37650.

West 1.3 miles to **Lodging:** 0.5 mile on River Road (best hitch), then 0.8 mile on Temple Hill Road to Holiday Inn Express, (423) 743-4100, \$70D, \$10EAP per night, no pets, hot B buffet, Internet in lobby, laundry, hot tub (seasonal), swimming pool, parking for section-hikers, mail drops accepted at 2002 Temple Hill Rd., Erwin, TN 37650.

West 3.8 miles on River Road (best hitch) to ■ **Lodging:** Clayton's Dogwood Inn, <www.claytonsdogwoodinn.com>, (423) 735-0093, \$50s, \$65D, reservations recommended, includes hot homestyle B, no pets, mail drops accepted at 430 Ohio Ave., Erwin, TN 37650; Best Southern Motel, (423) 743-6438, \$35s, \$39.95D, no pets, shuttles available, mail drops accepted, 1315 Jackson Love Hwy., Erwin, TN 37650; Super 8 Motel, (423) 743-0200, \$49.95s, \$54.95D includes B, shuttles, Internet, no pets, will accept mail drops at 1101 N. Buffalo St., Erwin, TN 37650. ■ **Camping:** Cherokee Adventures, (800) 445-7238, <www.cherokeeadventures.com>, tentsite \$5PP, bunkhouse \$8PP (call for availability), showers only \$2, 1.4 miles west on Tenn. 81. ■ **Restaurants:** China Kitchen, Su buffet; Azteca Mexican Ristorante; El Corita Mexican Restaurant; Pizza Plus; Pizza Hut; Rocky's Pizza; Dairy Ace; Hardee's; Little Caesar's; Wendy's; McDonald's; Huddle House; Sonic Burger; River's Edge Café, L/D, Tu–Su (summer), seasonal (Nov–Mar), call (423) 743-3713 to check hours, live music on weekends, 5.5 miles from the A.T.; J.D.'s Market & Deli; Union Street Café, M–F, 11–2, 5–8 p.m. ■ **Groceries:** Food Lion, White's (2 locations), both long-



term resupply; Dollar General (2 locations); and Family Dollar. ■ **Outfitter:** Mahoney's, (423) 282-8889, in Johnson City, 13 miles north. ■ **Internet access:** public library; Chamber of Commerce, (423) 743-3000, M–F 8–5, Sa 9–1, also has information on shuttles. ■ **Other services:** banks; ATM; barber; coin laundries; thrift stores; hardware; dentists; 24-hour emergency center; Walgreens; Walmart; shoe repair; movie theater; art gallery; veterinarian.

Whitewater Rafting—Rafting companies offer guided trips on the scenic, free-flowing Nolichucky River: NOC, (800) 232-7238; USA Raft, (800) USA-RAFT; Cherokee Adventure, (800) 445-7238; High Mountain Expeditions, (800) 262-9036; Wahoo's Adventures, (800) 444-RAFT, which also provides rafting on Watauga River near Hampton–Elizabethton.

Curley Maple Gap Shelter (1961, renovated 2009)—Sleeps 12. No privy. Water source is a spring south on the A.T.

Unaka Mountain—With a large stand of red spruce atop its 5,180-foot summit, Unaka will remind southbounders of the Maine woods. Unaka is the Cherokee word for “white.” A series of 2008 relocations on the north side of Unaka Mountain, beginning 1 mile north of Iron Mountain Gap and ending 0.75 mile north of the summit, added about a mile to the A.T. between Greasy Creek Gap and the summit of Unaka.

Cherry Gap Shelter (1962)—Sleeps 6. No privy. Water source is a spring found 80 yards on a blue-blazed trail from the shelter.



Tenn. 107, N.C. 226/Iron Mountain Gap—East 3 miles to **Groceries:** Buladean Shell Gas & Grocery (short-term resupply), (828) 628-4850, Su–Sa 7 a.m.–8 p.m., with made-to-order sandwiches, ice cream, and Coleman fuel.

West 10.3 miles to **Unicoi, Tenn. [P.O. ZIP 37692: M–F 8–11 & 12–4 Sa 8:30–10:30; (800) 275-8777]**, with Clarence's Restaurant B/L/D, Maple Grove Restaurant, mini-marts, and a doctor.

Greasy Creek Gap—East 0.6 mile to **Hostel:** Greasy Creek Friendly Hostel (short-term resupply), (828) 688-9948, <atrailagc@yahoo.com>; bunkhouse \$10PP, one room (twin beds) \$16PP, camping \$7.50PP, includes shower/towel/soap for guests; nonguest shower \$3; restricted kitchen privileges; shuttle, laundry, meals, ice cream, fuel, Internet; no dogs inside. Accepts mail drops sent to Greasy Creek Friendly (GCF),

1827 Greasy Creek Road, Bakerville, NC 28705. *Directions:* At sign, follow pre-dominant old road descending to east of campsites, through service gate, to first house on right.

Clyde Smith Shelter (1976)—Sleeps 10. No privy. Water source is a spring 100 yards behind the shelter on a blue-blazed trail. Renovations include new roof and porch.

Roan Mountain—For northbounders, this will be the last time the A.T. climbs above 6,000 feet until Mt. Washington in New Hampshire. At the top is a parking area, with restroom and running water (May–Oct). Roan Mountain is arguably the coldest spot, year-round, on the southern A.T. Upon reaching the top of the main climb (for northbounders), enter a clearing, and pass the foundation of the former Cloudland Hotel. The Tennessee–North Carolina state line ran through the center of the hotel’s ballroom when Cloudland was a thriving resort during the late 1800s and early 1900s. It was demolished in 1915, after loggers harvested the fir and spruce on the mountaintop. Much of the Catawba rhododendron was dug up and sold to ornamental nurseries. The remaining rhododendron flourished after the logging and quickly covered the slopes of Roan, hence the famous rhododendron gardens. The peak blooming time is usually around Jun 20. The gardens can be reached by following the Forest Service road (visible from the hotel foundation) west, uphill, along the top of the mountain, where an information station is located.

Roan High Knob Shelter (1980)—Sleeps 15. No privy. The highest shelter on the A.T. (6,275 feet). Originally an old firewarden’s cabin, this shelter was rebuilt by Cherokee National Forest employees. The loft is known to leak. An unreliable water source can be found on a 100-yard, blue-blazed trail near the shelter. More reliable sources are south on the A.T. at the Roan Mountain restroom, when open, or a spring at Carvers Gap picnic area, 1.3 miles north.

Gray’s lily—A protected, red, nodding lily can be found blooming on the slopes of Round Bald, Grassy Ridge, and Hump Mountain in late Jun–early Jul. The lily is named for botanist Asa Gray, who found the plant here during the 1840s. He called the Roan range, “without a doubt, the most beautiful mountain east of the Rockies.”

Roan Mountain to Hump Mountain—Between Roan Mountain and Hump Mountain, the Trail crosses several balds. Round Bald (5,826 feet) is the site of a USFS experiment in which goats were used to keep briars and brambles from encroaching on the bald. Although the southern Appalachians do not rise above treeline, there

are many balds, the origins of which remains a mystery to scientists. Some point to the harsh conditions at high elevations, while others claim Indians cleared the mountains for religious ceremonies. Many believe extensive grazing and cropping led to treeless summits, and still others say it's the work of spacemen. The 6,189-foot summit of Grassy Ridge is reached by following a side trail to the east before the A.T. begins its descent off the ridge to Stan Murray Shelter. It is the only natural 360-degree viewpoint above 6,000 feet near the Trail. (Clingmans Dome has its observation tower, and Mt. Washington's summit in New Hampshire is covered with numerous buildings.) To avoid potential damage to endangered species, please do *not* camp between the summit and the southern peak. For northbounders, the A.T. veers west from the North Carolina/Tennessee line into Tennessee at Doll Flats, where it remains until crossing into Virginia 3.5 miles south of Damascus.



N.C. 261/Carvers Gap—Picnic area and parking area with restrooms; piped spring beyond restrooms. North out of Carvers Gap, the Trail has been relocated with switchbacks to control erosion and heal the vivid scar of the old treadway. Please stay on the new treadway to allow this area to recover.

Stan Murray Shelter (1977)—Sleeps 6. No privy. Formerly the Roan Highlands Shelter, this shelter was renamed for the former chairman of the ATC and originator of the Appalachian Greenway concept. Water source is a spring on a blue-blazed trail opposite the shelter.

Overmountain Shelter (1983)—Sleeps 20. Privy. A large, red, converted barn once used as a backdrop for the movie “Winter People.” Fires and cooking are permitted on the ground floor only. Water source is a spring found to the left once you reach the old road before the shelter. There are two separate water sources here, depending on the dryness of the year.

Apple House Shelter (1984)—Sleeps 6. No privy. Located near the road. This structure was first constructed in 1952 to store explosives for a quarry in the hollow and tools for a nearby orchard, before being rebuilt by TEHC and the Forest Service. Water source is behind the shelter.