

Aska Trail System

This hiking and mountain biking trail near Deep Gap on Aska Road south of Blue Ridge, GA has several loop opportunities.

Stanley Gap Trail

Length: 5 miles **Difficulty:** Moderate **Use:** Light

This trail begins at the Deep Gap Parking Lot on Aska Road. The trail heads southwest on Davenport Mountain. The route then goes southeast, climbing Rocky Mountain before descending to Stanley Gap on Stanley Creek Road.

Flat Creek Loop

Length: 5.1 miles **Difficulty:** Moderate **Use:** Light

Approximately 100 yards from the Deep Gap parking lot on the Stanley Gap Trail, the Flat Creek trail forks to the left. At about 0.4 miles along this fork the loop begins. The trail will utilize hand dug tread way and old logging roads to loop around Flat Creek. Total length of Flat Creek Loop is 5.1 miles.

Long Branch Loop

Length: 2.0 miles **Difficulty:** Easy **Use:** Light

This trail begins at corner of the Shady Falls parking lot. The trail leaves the parking area and enters onto an old logging road. Within 300 yards, the trail forks to make the loop. The right fork goes gradually downhill on the roadbed, crosses a creek and ascends gently on a grassy road. At 0.75 miles the Long Branch Connector trail leads off to the right. The left fork continues the Long Branch Loop which descends to the branch, crosses a branch and ascends on an old road back to parking lot. Total distance of Long Branch Loop is 2.1 miles.

Green Mountain Trail

Length: 3.7 miles **Difficulty:** Easy **Use:** Light

The trail begins across Aska Road from the Deep Gap Parking Lot. It is a gradual climb to Green Mountain. The visitor will travel the old logging roadbed segment, which is just south on Aska Road. About one-half miles from Aska Road Long Branch Connector trail bears to the right. The Green Mountain trail then descends for 2.2 miles to its terminus on Forest Road 711 and Blue Ridge Lake. Total length of Green Mountain trail is 3.7 miles.



Long Trails

The Appalachian Trail in Georgia (Website: www.georgia-atclub.org)

The Appalachian Trail is one of the longest maintained trails in the world. Beginning atop Springer Mountain in Georgia, and ending 2,100 miles away on Mount Katahdin in Maine, the A.T. passes through 14 states, and draws hikers from all over the world. In Georgia the U.S. Forest Service and the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club have worked together to maintain the 79 miles of trail and protect its corridor lands. In 1968 Congress authorized the Appalachian Trail as the first National Scenic Trail.

Appalachian National Scenic Trail – Springer Mountain to Bly Gap (GA – NC Border)

Length: 67 miles

Difficulty: Easy to strenuous **Use:** Heavy

Passing through the Blue Ridge, and Chattooga River Ranger Districts, the Appalachian Trail is marked with 2" x 6" white blazes. This trail crosses over some of the highest mountains in the state and offers outstanding views of the southern Appalachians. Several road crossings allow the Appalachian Trail in Georgia to be hiked in sections.

Benton MacKaye Trail (Website: www.bmta.org)

The Benton MacKaye Trail (BMT) is a footpath of nearly 300 miles through the Appalachian mountains of the southeastern United States. Running from Springer Mountain in Georgia to Davenport Gap on the northern edge of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the BMT passes through some of the most remote backcountry in Georgia, Tennessee and North Carolina, including eight federally designated Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas.

Benton MacKaye Trail – Springer Mountain to Double Spring Gap (GA – TN Border)

Length: 80 miles **Difficulty:** Strenuous to Moderate **Use:** Moderate

Passing through the Blue Ridge and Conasauga Ranger Districts the Benton MacKaye Trail is marked with white diamond-shaped blazes. The trail varies in elevations from 1,500 feet to over 3,600 feet. The terrain varies from walks along streams through laurel and rhododendron thickets to scenic ridge top hikes, to timbered land, thick forests, and country roads. From its beginning on Springer Mountain the trail runs somewhat parallel to the AT for the first 6+ miles, intersecting it three times then veers northwest to the Tennessee border.

Duncan Ridge National Recreation Trail- Near Blood Mountain and Rhodes Mountain

Length: 16 miles

Difficulty: Moderate to Strenuous

Use: Light to Moderate

The Duncan Ridge Trail is a ridge top trail that connects with the Appalachian Trail near Blood Mountain and the Benton MacKaye Trail at Rhodes Mountain on the Blue Ridge Ranger District, and is blue-blazed. The Duncan Ridge, Benton MacKaye, and Appalachian Trails can be combined into a 60-mile loop hike.

Coosa Backcountry Trail

Length: 11.8 miles

Difficulty: Moderate to strenuous **Use:** Moderate

The main trailhead for this trail is located within Vogel State Park on GA 180. This trail passes through several forest environments, and has significant elevation changes along its route. A portion of this trail is within the Blood Mountain Wilderness. Blazes are less frequent in Wilderness.

LEAVE NO TRACE Tips

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimize campfire impacts
- Respect wildlife
- Be considerate of other visitors



The 309,000-acre Blue Ridge Ranger District is part of the Chattahoochee National Forest. This District guide will help you enjoy hiking opportunities that range from short walks to overnight backpacks. These trails pass through a variety of forest types and management practices. Difficulty levels range from easy to strenuous. Most of the trailheads have developed parking areas. Contact the District Office for updated trail information and directions. You are responsible for leaving the forest clean and free of litter, and extinguishing all campfires. Please, **Leave No Trace** of your visit.

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Hiking Trails on the Blue Ridge Ranger District Chattahoochee National Forest



Blue Ridge Ranger District
2042 Highway 515 W.
Blairsville, GA 30512
706-745-6928
www.fs.usda.gov/conf

Day Hikes

Brasstown Bald Summit Trail

Length: 0.6 miles **Difficulty:** Moderate

Use: Heavy

This trail begins in the Brasstown Bald parking area and climbs to the Visitor Center atop Brasstown Bald, the highest mountain in Georgia (4784 ft).

Wagon Train Trail

Length: 5.7 miles **Difficulty:** Moderate

Use: Moderate

This trail begins at the Brasstown Bald parking area, and descends on an old road bed toward Young Harris thru the Brasstown Wilderness. The trail officially ends at the National Forest boundary 1.25 miles south of Young Harris.

Arkaquah Trail

Length: 5.5 miles **Difficulty:** Moderate

Use: Moderate

This trail is accessed from the parking area for the Brasstown Bald Visitor Center or from the Trackrock Archeological Site on Track Rock Road. The trail descends along a ridge, and the lower mile is steep. Most of this trail is located within the Brasstown Wilderness. Blazes are infrequent in Wilderness.

Jacks Knob Trail

Length: 4.5 miles **Difficulty:** Moderate.

Use: Moderate

This blue-blazed trail begins with a short climb from the Brasstown Bald parking lot and descends 1,500 feet through a series of switchbacks that cover 2.3 miles. It crosses GA 180 in Jacks Gap and then climbs 2.2 miles to the Appalachian Trail at Chattahoochee Gap. Approximately 0.2 miles south of Jacks Gap, the trail enters the Mark Trail Wilderness. Blazes are infrequent in Wilderness.

Bear Hair Trail

Length: 3.6 miles **Difficulty:** Moderate

Use: Heavy

This trail begins in Vogel State Park north of Neels Gap on US 129. The trail shares a portion of its route with the Coosa Backcountry Trail. A spur trail leads to an overlook above Lake Trahlyta. A portion of this trail is within the Blood Mountain Wilderness. Blazes are infrequent in Wilderness.

Byron Herbert Reece Trail

Length: 0.7 miles **Difficulty:** Moderate

Use: Heavy

This blue-blazed trail begins in the Byron Herbert Reece Memorial parking area on north of Neels Gap on US 129. The trail climbs to the Appalachian Trail

just south of Flat Rock Gap near one end of the Freeman Trail. This trail is within the Blood Mountain Wilderness. Blazes are infrequent in Wilderness.

Freeman Trail

Length: 1.8 miles **Difficulty:** Moderate

Use: Moderate

This blue-blazed trail winds around the south slopes of Blood Mountain, connecting with the Appalachian Trail at Flatrock Gap and Bird Gap. This trail is within the Blood Mtn. Wilderness and can be accessed via the Appalachian Trail at Neels Gap or the Byron Herbert Reece Memorial, both located on U.S. Highway 129. This trail is within the Blood Mountain Wilderness. Blazes are infrequent in Wilderness.

DeSoto Falls Trail

Length: 1.0 miles **Difficulty:** Easy to Moderate

Use: Heavy

The trail begins at the bridge in the lower loop of the DeSoto Falls Recreation Area campground. The Lower Falls are ¼ mile downstream and the Upper Falls are ¾ mile upstream from this point. The trail follows Frogtown Creek through rhododendron, mountain laurel, and hemlock. **Please do not climb around the waterfalls.**

Dockery Lake Trail

Length: 3.5 miles. **Difficulty:** Easy to Strenuous

Use: Moderate.

This blue-blazed trail begins in the Dockery Lake Recreation Area off GA 60 south of Woody Gap. The trail crosses several creeks, and then climbs steeply up to the Appalachian Trail in Miller Gap. A portion of this trail is within the Blood Mtn. Wilderness. Blazes are infrequent in Wilderness.

Helton Creek Falls Trail

Length: 0.2 mi. **Difficulty:** Easy. **Use:** Heavy

The trail begins 2.3 miles east of US 129 on Helton Creek Road near Vogel State Park. This short trail descends to the first waterfall then climbs beside the creek to the second and larger waterfall. **Please do not climb around the waterfalls.**

High Shoals Trail

Length: 1.2 miles **Difficulty:** Moderate

Use: Heavy

This trail begins 1.5 miles east of GA 17/75 on FDR #283 north of Unicoi Gap. The trail descends through a series of long switchbacks to High Shoals Creek, and then follows the creek to viewing platforms at two waterfalls. **Please do not climb around the waterfalls.**

Rocky Mountain Trail

Length: 1 miles **Difficulty:** Moderate

Use: Light to Moderate

This blue-blazed trail climbs gradually from FDR #283 to the Appalachian Trail on the side of Rocky Mountain. A loop hike can be made by combining the Appalachian and Rocky Mountain Trails and FDR #283 from the Appalachian Trail crossing in Indian Grave Gap.

Lake Chatuge Trail

Length: 1.2 miles **Difficulty:** Easy **Use:** Moderate

This paved loop trail circles the peninsula at Lake Chatuge Recreation area on GA 288 near Hiawassee.

Lake Winfield Scott Trail

Length: 0.4 miles **Difficulty:** Easy. **Use:** Heavy

This trail follows the lakeshore at Lake Winfield Scott Recreation Area on GA 180 west of Vogel State Park.

Jarrard Gap Trail

Length: 1 miles **Difficulty:** Moderate

Use: Moderate.

This blue-blazed trail begins in the Lake Winfield Scott Recreation Area and climbs gradually to the Appalachian Trail at Jarrard Gap. A loop hike can be made by using the Jarrard Gap, Appalachian, and Slaughter Creek Trails.

Slaughter Creek Trail

Length: 2.7 miles **Difficulty:** Moderate

Use: Moderate to Heavy.

This blue-blazed trail begins in the Lake Winfield Scott Recreation Area and climbs gradually to the Appalachian Trail south of Blood Mountain. A portion of this trail is within the Blood Mountain Wilderness. Blazes are infrequent in Wilderness.

Sosebee Cove Trail

Length: 0.25 miles **Difficulty:** Easy

Use: Moderate

This trail is located on GA 180 west of Vogel State Park. The loop trail circles through a second-growth cove hardwood forest with many large trees and an outstanding variety of wildflowers. This area is a memorial to Arthur Woody, who served as the first Forest Service Ranger in Georgia.

Miller Trek

Length: 5.5 miles

Difficulty: Moderate

Use: Moderate

This loop trail begins in the Brasstown Valley Resort on US 76 near Young Harris and quickly enters the National Forest. The trail winds through

upland hardwoods and coves. Miller Trek honors former U.S. Senator and Georgia Governor Zell Miller, a Young Harris native.

Lake Blue Ridge Trail

Length: 2.5 miles **Difficulty:** Easy **Use:** Light

This trail is located off of Dry Branch Road near Blue Ridge Lake. The trail follows the closed paved roads through the day use at Lake Blue Ridge Recreation Area.

Cooper Creek Trail System

This trail system begins at the Cooper Creek Scenic Area or Cooper Creek Campground. It offers several short loop opportunities.

Cooper Creek Connector Trail

Length: 0.4 miles **Difficulty:** Easy **Use:** Light

This trail is a connector trail between the Millshoals and Yellow Mtn. Trails. This trail can be reached by hiking 0.6 mile from the Millshoals trailhead or 1 mile from the Yellow Mtn. Trailhead, both on FDR#236. Various loop hikes can be made by using combinations of the Cooper Creek, Shope Gap, Yellow Mountain, and Millshoals Trails.

Shope Gap Trail

Length: 0.6 miles **Difficulty:** Moderate **Use:** Light

This trail is accessed via the Yellow Mtn. trail 1.3 miles from the trailhead on FDR #236. The trail continues north and intersects with FDR #39 at Shope Gap.

Yellow Mountain Trail

Length: 2.7 miles **Difficulty:** Moderate to Strenuous

Use: Light

This trail begins 300 yards south from the Cooper Creek Recreation Area on FDR #236. The trail meanders through a forest of hemlock, white pine and hardwoods. The trail crosses Bryant Creek, ending at Addie Gap on FDR #33A.

Millshoals Trail

Length: 2.4 miles **Difficulty:** Moderate **Use:** Light

This trail begins near the Yellow Mountain trailhead on FDR #236. The trail crosses several small streams. The last mile of this trail runs concurrently with FDR #39, ending at Shope Gap.

Cooper Creek Trail

Length: 1.7 miles **Difficulty:** Easy

Use: Moderate

This trail is located on general forestlands south of Cooper Creek Campground on FDR #236. It traverses a variety of wildlife habitats.