

Long Trails

The Appalachian Trail in Georgia

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. In 2010 Union County became an official Appalachian Trail Community.

Duncan Ridge National Recreation Trail- Near Three Forks to Slaughter Gap

Length: 31 mi. **Difficulty:** Moderate to Strenuous
The Duncan Ridge Trail is a ridge top trail that connects with the Appalachian Trail near Three Forks in the Toccoa District and near Blood Mountain in the Brasstown District. The start of the trail is a little more than 1.0 mile from FS #58 near Three Forks on the Appalachian Trail, and is blue-blazed. From there to Mulky Gap, the trail is within the Toccoa District. After crossing FS #4 at Mulky Gap the trail is within the Brasstown District. The Duncan Ridge and Appalachian Trails can be combined to make a continuous 60-mile loop hike.



Destination Trails

Brasstown Bald Summit Trail

Length: 0.6 mi. **Difficulty:** Moderate

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.).

Helton Creek Falls Trail

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

A very short trail off US 129 South 2 miles past Vogel State Park on Helton Creek Road on the left. This short trail descends to the first waterfall then climbs beside the creek to the second and larger waterfall.

DeSoto Falls Trail

Length: 1.0 mi. **Difficulty:** Easy/ Moderate

The trail is within the DeSoto Falls Recreation Area campground located off 129 South approximately 15 miles from Blairsville. The Lower Falls are ¼ mile downstream and the Upper Falls are ¾ mile upstream. The trail follows Frogtown Creek through rhododendron, mountain laurel, and hemlock.

High Shoals Trail

Length: 1.2 mi. **Difficulty:** Moderate

This blue-blazed trail begins 1.5 miles east of GA 17/75 on FS #283, Indian Grave Gap Rd. The trail follows High Shoals Creek to viewing platforms overlooking the two waterfalls.



TRAILS OF THE BLUE RIDGE RANGER DISTRICT CHATTAHOOCHEE NATIONAL FOREST



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Arkaquah Trail

Length: 5.5mi. **Difficulty:** Moderate

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

Jacks Knob Trail

Length: 4.5 mi. **Difficulty:** 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 covers 2.3 miles. It crosses GA 180 at Jacks Gap 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.

Bear Hair Trail

Length: 3.6 mi. **Difficulty:** Moderate

This orange-blazed 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. Season depending, wildflowers and long distance vistas can be seen. A portion of this trail is within the Blood Mountain Wilderness.

Coosa Backcountry Trail

Length: 11.8 mi.

Difficulty: Moderate to Strenuous

The main trailhead for this yellow-blazed trail is located within Vogel State Park on GA 180. The park requires a free permit for hikers that begin there. This trail passes through several forest environments, and has significant elevation changes along its route. Hikers will climb and descend over 1 mile in elevation crossing 3 ridgelines. A portion of this trail is within the Blood Mountain Wilderness.

Yellow Mountain Trail

Length: 2.7 mi. **Difficulty:** Moderate to Strenuous

This yellow-blazed trail begins 300 yards from the Cooper Creek Recreation Area on FS #236. From Blairsville take US 129 south and turn right onto GA -180. The trail meanders through a forest of hemlock, white pine and hardwoods. The trail crosses Bryant Creek, ending at Addie Gap on FS #33A.

Cooper Creek Trail

Length: 0.4 mi. **Difficulty:** Easy

This blue-blazed 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 FS #236. Various loop hikes can be made by using combinations of the Cooper Creek, Shope Gap, Yellow Mountain, and Millshoals Trails.

Byron Herbert Reece Trail

Length: 0.7mi. **Difficulty:** Moderate

This blue-blazed trail begins in the Byron Herbert Reece Memorial parking area. Go north of Neels Gap on US 129 south and then take a right onto GA-180. 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. On the trail one can expect to see diverse forests with a wide range of different types of trees as well as wildflowers during the warmer months.

Freeman Trail

Length: 1.8 mi. **Difficulty:** 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.

Dockery Lake Trail

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

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

Jarrard Gap Trail

Length: 1mi. **Difficulty:** Moderate

This blue-blazed trail begins in 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 mi. **Difficulty:** Moderate

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.

Miller Trek

Length: 5.5 mi. **Difficulty:** Moderate

This orange-blazed loop trail begins at Brasstown Valley Resort on US 76 near Young Harris. The trail winds through upland hardwoods and coves. Miller Trek honors U.S. Senator Zell Miller, a Young Harris native.

Rocky Mountain Trail

Length: 1 mi. **Difficulty:** Moderate

This blue-blazed trail climbs gradually from FS #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 FS #283 from the Appalachian Trail crossing in Indian Grave Gap.

*Blazes are infrequent in Wilderness