

Sumter National Forest South Carolina



Chattooga Trail

Southern Region, USDA Forest Service

Date: 03/24/2004

Highlights

Many habitats are covered by this extensive trail. It runs along the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River and connects with the extensive trail systems of two other national forests and privately owned land. This trail provides hikers with a chance to leave civilization and rely on their own strength and skill.

Special rules are necessary to protect the forest ecosystem along these trails. Specific regulations are found in the Andrew Pickens Ranger District Trail Guide.

Winter Hiking

Winter-weather hiking can be quite enjoyable, but only for experienced backpackers who keep informed of changing weather and have proper equipment to meet emergency conditions. Always go prepared for zero-degree weather along ridgetop trails during winter months. Snow, wind, rain, sleet, and low temperature sometimes hit the ridges while pleasant weather still prevails on lower slopes and valleys.

Surrounding Area

Because this trail covers such a large area, surrounding areas are extensive. The Chattooga Wild and Scenic River is, of course, close by, with its whitewater boating, hiking, and trout fishing opportunities. Horseback riding is also available on nearby Rocky Gap/Willis Knob Horse Trail.

For More Information

Andrew Pickens Ranger District

112 Andrew Pickens Circle

Mountain Rest, SC 29664

Phone: (864) 638-9568

Fax: (864) 638-2659

Hours: Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Directions: Major access point is near highway 76 at the South Carolina/Georgia state line parking lot (on the Georgia side). Consult a Chattooga River map to find various other trail access points.

Camping: Primitive camping is allowed. Choose a site at least 50 feet from the trail, 50 feet from the river or any tributary stream and ¼ mile from the road. Please respect specific limitations when posted.

Difficulty Level: Trail is primitive, varying from moderately to extremely difficult, depending on the terrain.

Length: 18.3 miles

Safety: Poisonous snakes live in these habitats. Practice water safety near the river and be aware of other natural hazards.

Season: Year-round. Winter can bring very cold temperatures and hazardous trail conditions.

Volunteers for trail maintenance are always needed and welcome. Contact the district office.

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests

4931 Broad River Road, Columbia, SC 29212-3530 (803)561-4000

