

# Sumter National Forest

## South Carolina



# Yellow Branch Nature Trail

Southern Region, USDA Forest Service

Date: 11/13/2002

## Highlights

From the road at the main picnic area, begin this rolling, and occasionally steep, .4-mile loop. Step across a crevice where a narrow creek flows through the flat rock to a sandy path under a canopy of tulip trees, oaks, and hickories, then along a ridge knotted with rhododendron and mountain laurel. Watch your step as you descend to a rushing creek, where you will navigate stone steps and cross several rocky fords. Watch for pickerel frogs, salamanders, snakes, and other wildlife in this area. About midway, you will see a sign that marks the 1.3 mile spur to Yellow Branch Falls if you want to extend your hike. To complete the .4-mile loop, turn left at the end of the trail and follow the road to the parking area. Surrounding Area: The Stumphouse Ranger Station (district office for the Andrew Pickens Ranger District) is located 1/4 mile north of the picnic area. A wide variety of information is available here. Items such as maps, field guides, and Smoky Bear items may be purchased.

## Surrounding Area

Stumphouse Tunnel Park, owned by the Pendleton Historical Society, is located between the picnic area and the ranger station. The tunnel is no longer opened due to safety concerns, but picnic tables, a small stream and Isaqueena Falls are there for your enjoyment.

The small town of Walhalla is about 6 miles south of the picnic area. Walhalla, meaning "Garden of the Gods," is named for its largely German heritage. The town holds an Oktoberfest each year. Visitors will find several restaurants and specialty stores.

**Directions:** From Walhalla, drive west 6.8 miles on SC Highway 28 and turn left into Yellow Branch Picnic Area.

**Difficulty level:** easy

**Length:** .4 mile loop

**Safety:** Take along insect repellent in warm weather.

**Season:** year-round

**Surface type:** dirt

**Travel time:** 1/2 hour

**Volunteers for trail maintenance are always needed and welcome. Contact the District Office.**

## 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.*

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## Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests

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

