

Find Your Trail: The 15 Best Hikes in the Smokies

A local's guide to Great Smoky Mountains National Park's best trails — sorted by difficulty, with the stats you need to pick the right one.

EASY

MODERATE

STRENUOUS

850+ miles of trail, narrowed to 15

1 Laurel Falls Trail

2.6 mi · 314 ft · 1.5–2 hrs

EASY

2 Gatlinburg Trail

3.9 mi · 200 ft · 1.5–2 hrs

EASY

3 Cataract Falls Trail

0.8 mi · 200 ft · 30 min

EASY

4 Kuwohi Observation Tower

1 mi · 330 ft · 30–45 min

EASY

5 Andrews Bald

3.6 mi · 560 ft · 2–2.5 hrs

EASY

6 Grotto Falls Trail

2.6 mi · 585 ft · 1.5–2 hrs

MODERATE

7 Rainbow Falls Trail

5.4 mi · 1,690 ft · 3–4 hrs

MODERATE

8 Alum Cave Trail (to Bluffs)

4.4 mi · 1,400 ft · 2.5–3.5 hrs

MODERATE

9 Baskins Creek Falls

3.1 mi · 590 ft · 2–2.5 hrs

MODERATE

10 Abrams Falls Trail

5 mi · 540 ft · 2.5–3 hrs

MODERATE

11 Charlies Bunion

8.1 mi · 1,640 ft · 4–5 hrs

STRENUOUS

12 Mount LeConte via Alum Cave

10–11 mi · 2,760 ft · 6–8 hrs

STRENUOUS

13 Ramsey Cascades

8 mi · 2,375 ft · 5–6 hrs

STRENUOUS

14 Gregory Bald

11.3 mi · 3,020 ft · 6–7 hrs

STRENUOUS

15 Rocky Top via Spence Field

13.9 mi · 3,600+ ft · 7–9 hrs

STRENUOUS