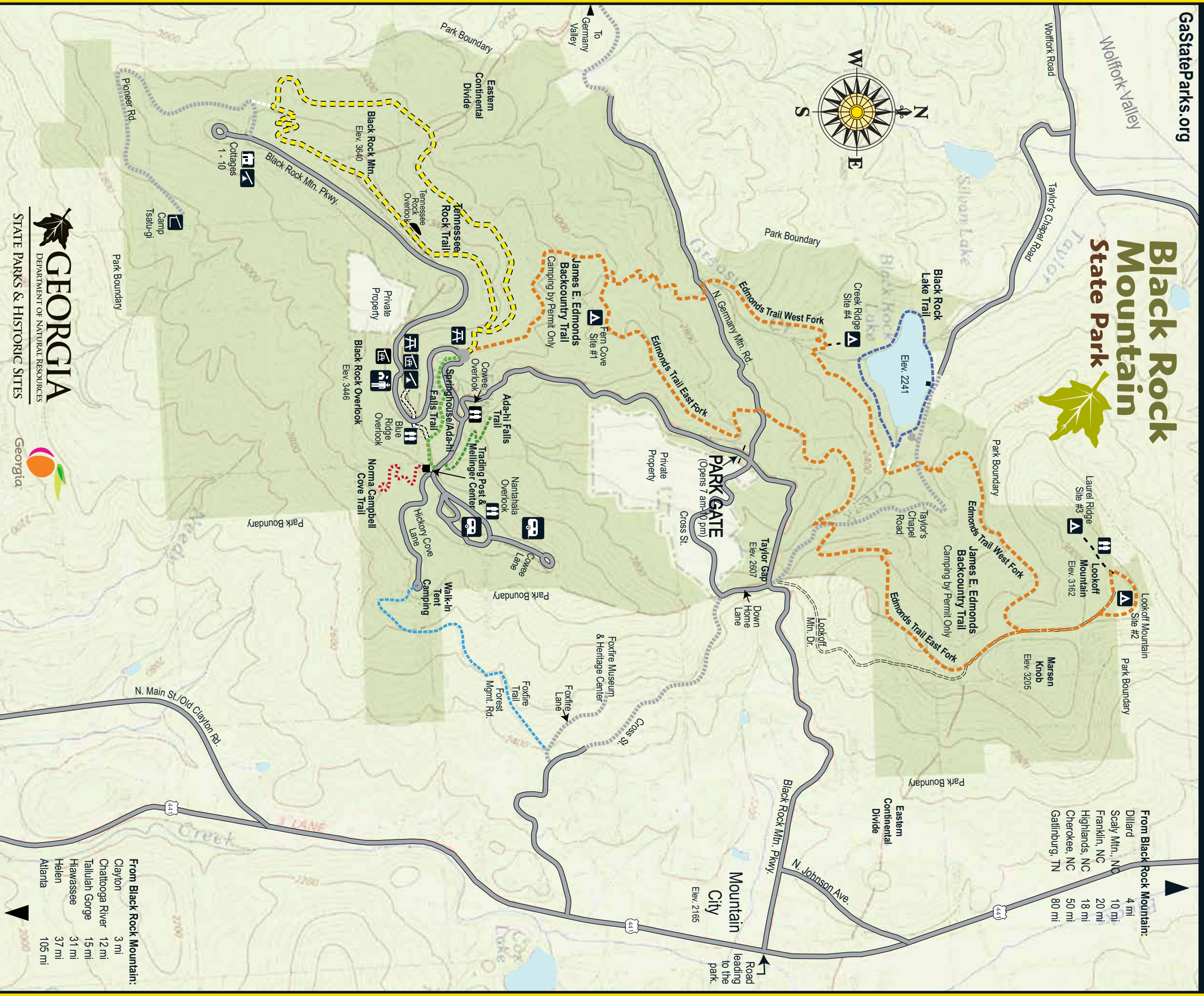


# Black Rock Mountain State Park Trail Map

3085 Black Rock Mountain Parkway • Mountain City, Georgia 30562 • Park: 706-746-2141 • Emergency: 706-746-2818 • Reservations: 1-800-864-7275

GaStateParks.org



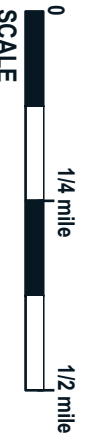
## Black Rock Mountain State Park



**From Black Rock Mountain:**  
 Dillard 4 mi  
 Sealy Mtn., NC 10 mi  
 Franklin, NC 20 mi  
 Highlands, NC 18 mi  
 Cherokee, NC 50 mi  
 Gatlinburg, TN 80 mi

**From Black Rock Mountain:**  
 Clayton 3 mi  
 Chattooga River 12 mi  
 Tallulah Gorge 15 mi  
 Hiwassee 31 mi  
 Helen 37 mi  
 Atlanta 105 mi

### LEGEND



- Hiking Trails**
- - - - Tennessee Rock Trail / 2.2-mile loop
  - - - - Ada-hi Falls Trail / .25-mile one-way
  - . . . . . Springhouse/Ada-hi Falls Trail / .6-mile one-way
  - . . . . . Visitor Center Connector Trail / .25-mile one-way
  - - - - James E. Edmonds Backcountry Trail / 7.2-mile one-way
  - - - - Black Rock Lake Trail / .85-mile loop
  - . . . . . Norma Campbell Cove Trail / 0.1 mile
  - - - - Foxfire Trail / 0.8 mile (Mon-Sat 8:30am-4:30pm only)

- Symbols**
- Paved Road
  - Gravel Road
  - Forest Management Road
  - Pioneer Camping Area
  - RV & Tent Camping
  - Park Visitor Center
  - Picnic Area
  - Overlook
  - Cottages
  - Picnic Shelter
  - Playground

**GEORGIA**  
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 STATE PARKS & HISTORIC SITES



Since trails may be closed for maintenance or inclement weather, check with the rangers at the Park Visitor Center to ensure availability.

Criminal trespass charges and search & rescue costs can be charged to parties guilty of negligence or failure to get user permits.

# Black Rock Mountain State Park



Black Rock Mountain State Park, named for its sheer cliffs of dark-colored biotite gneiss, encompasses some of the most outstanding country in Georgia's Blue Ridge Mountains. Located astride the Eastern Continental Divide at an altitude of 3,640 feet, Black Rock Mountain is the highest state park in Georgia. Numerous scenic overlooks provide spectacular 80-mile vistas of the Southern Appalachians, and several hiking trails lead visitors past colorful wildflowers, sparkling streams, small waterfalls and lush forests.

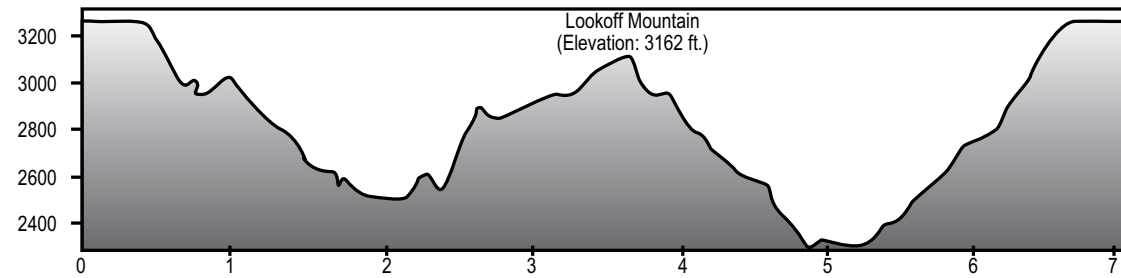
## TRAIL SAFETY & ETIQUETTE

- Tell someone your itinerary and expected return time.
- Be prepared for unexpected weather changes by dressing in layers and carrying rain gear. Unexpected rain and wind can lead to hypothermia. Always carry quality rain gear and turn back in bad weather. If you become wet or cold, it is important to get dry and warm as quickly as possible.
- Dress in layers and avoid cotton. Luckily, today's hikers can choose from numerous fabrics that wick moisture, dry quickly or conserve heat. Many experienced hikers wear a lightweight shirt that wicks moisture, while carrying a fleece pullover and rain jacket.
- Take a map, water, snacks, first aid kit, flashlight and whistle. Three short blasts on a whistle are known as a call for help.
- Do not stray from trails. If you become lost, stay in one location and wait for help. This will make it easier for rescuers to find you. Don't count on cell phones to work in the wilderness, but if they do, be able to give details about your location.
- Invest in good hiking socks such as those found at sporting goods stores. Avoid blisters by carrying "moleskin" and applying it as soon as you feel a hot spot on your feet. Available in the foot care section of drug stores, moleskin is like felt that sticks to your skin.
- Pack out all trash.
- Keep pets on a leash.
- Do not pick flowers or disturb wildlife.
- Protect the landscape by staying on trails. Do not short-cut switchbacks. This practice is dangerous and can create major erosion problems.
- Stay together. Don't allow hikers, especially children, to run ahead or lag behind.

## CLIMATE DATA FOR BLACK ROCK MOUNTAIN

Month	Avg. High	Avg. Low	Mean	Avg. Precip.	Record High	Record Low
Jan	44°F	30°F	37°F	6.41 in	68°F (2002)	-20°F (1985)
Feb	47°F	32°F	39°F	6.40 in	73°F (1996)	-4°F (1991)
Mar	54°F	37°F	45°F	7.07 in	80°F (2007)	3°F (1996)
Apr	63°F	45°F	54°F	5.14 in	84°F (2001)	16°F (2007)
May	70°F	53°F	61°F	4.97 in	84°F (1996)	30°F (1992)
Jun	74°F	59°F	66°F	7.29 in	86°F (2011)	40°F (1985)
Jul	77°F	63°F	70°F	6.73 in	89°F (1993)	46°F (1979)
Aug	75°F	62°F	68°F	5.91 in	88°F (2008)	48°F (1986)
Sep	70°F	57°F	63°F	6.50 in	86°F (2011)	35°F (1990)
Oct	64°F	47°F	55°F	4.84 in	78°F (2007)	25°F (1989)
Nov	53°F	39°F	46°F	5.91 in	74°F (2005)	8°F (1979)
Dec	45°F	31°F	38°F	5.55 in	70°F (2007)	-4°F (1985)

## James E. Edmonds Trail (Backcountry)



**7.2-Mile Loop**  
Avg. Travel Time: 4 Hours  
Foot Travel Only

Compacted Natural Soil Surface  
Avg. Grade: 10% Max: 25%/250LF  
Min. Width: 18 inches  
Avg. X-slope: 10% Max: 30%/200LF  
Backcountry Camping by Permit Only.  
Camping allowed on four designated campsites. See map for locations. Advance reservations required. Call 1-800-864-7275.

The 7.2-mile James E. Edmonds Backcountry Trail, named in honor of one of the park's first rangers, offers both day hiking and backcountry camping. This trail is quite steep in a number of places and is rated as "moderate to strenuous." In laurel-filled coves, the trail follows cascading streams with small waterfalls. In the northernmost section of the park, the trail climbs to the summit of Lookoff Mountain and offers a stunning vista of Wolfork Valley and surrounding mountain ranges.

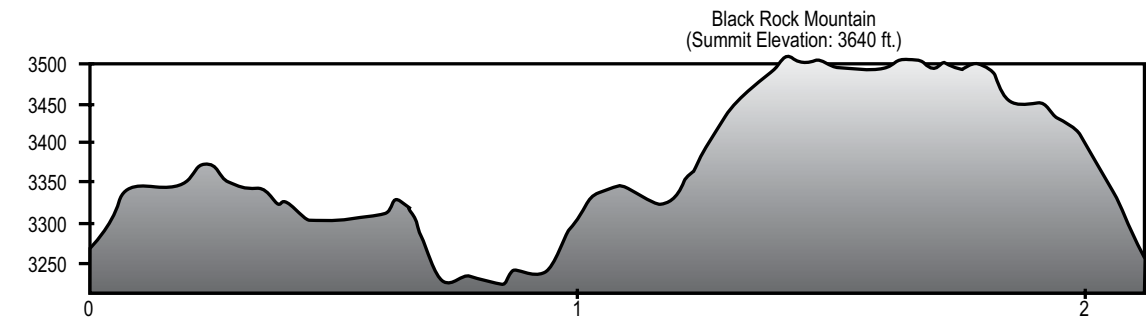
## Black Rock Lake Trail

**.85-Mile Loop**  
Avg. Travel Time: Half Hour  
Foot Travel Only

Compacted Natural Soil Surface / Gravel / Bark  
Avg. Grade: 5% Max: 10%  
Min. Width: 60 inches

The loop around scenic Black Rock Lake, completed in 2007, is a wonderful addition to the park's trail system. The 17-acre lake is unspoiled by development and is rimmed by forests of white pine and yellow poplar. The gently rolling .85-mile loop is rated "easy" and is perfectly suited for beginners. Wooden bridges cross Taylor Creek and Greasy Creek, the two cascading streams that feed Black Rock Lake, and an 80-foot bridge spans Cricket Cove on the lake's southwest corner. A wheelchair-accessible pier adjacent Turtle Rock and a 160-foot wooden boardwalk allow anglers a chance to fish for bass, bream, catfish, yellow perch and rainbow trout. In addition, several tables along shady Taylor Creek offer the perfect location for a creek-side picnic.

## Tennessee Rock Trail



**2.2-Mile Loop**  
Avg. Travel Time: One and a Half Hour  
Foot Travel Only

Compacted Natural Soil Surface  
Avg. Grade: 10% Max: 25%/200LF  
Min. Width: 18 inches  
Avg. X-slope: 10% Max: 25%/50LF

The yellow-blazed 2.2-mile Tennessee Rock Trail, winding its way through some of the highest and lushest forests, is the park's most popular hiking trail. Rated by experienced hikers as "easy to moderate," the trail offers most visitors a perfect opportunity to get better acquainted with the area's rich woodlands and vistas, that on clear days span over 80 miles into the neighboring states of both North and South Carolina, as well as Tennessee.

The effects from an EF-2 tornado are clearly visible on the trail's western edge, as hikers begin the climb to Black Rock Mountain's summit. While the damage to the forest is saddening to an extent, downed trees have enhanced vistas at several points along the trail and opened the thick woods for new growth.

## Tennessee Rock Trail Interpretive Information

Hikers wanting to learn more about the special forest ecology of the Southern Appalachians may wish to purchase a copy of "An Interpretive Guide to the Tennessee Rock Trail," available for a small fee at the visitor center and campground trading post. The text in this 32-page illustrated booklet corresponds to 25 numbered posts located along the trail. In addition to information about the park's natural history, the trail guide features interesting facts about early pioneer and North American life, as well as fascinating information about Appalachian geology, geography and climate. The guide serves as an excellent introduction to Black Rock Mountain State Park and the surrounding mountain region.

Hikers using the guide will quickly learn that there's a lot more to be found along the trail than just trees. For instance, hikers will discover an Appalachian boulderfield, an actual remnant of the great ice age which ended more than 10,000 years ago. Hikers will also walk a quarter-mile area along the Blue Ridge Mountain backbone, following the Eastern Continental Divide. This great ridge separates rainfall flowing eastward toward the Savannah River and the Atlantic Ocean from rainfall trending westward toward the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico. And when the weather is clear, hikers on the Tennessee Rock Trail can see Georgia's Brasstown Bald and Clingman's Dome in Tennessee.



**Grade** Obstacles may include uneven surfaces, exposed rock and tree roots, fallen trees and/or limbs, steps, long steep grades, loose stones and leaf litter, softness,



**X-slope** mud, icing or other slick conditions when wet, poisonous plants, heat and cold in season, insects,



**Width** snakes and wild animals including bears.

## Ada-hi Falls Trail

**.25-Mile Loop**  
Avg. Travel Time: Half Hour  
Foot Travel Only

Compacted Natural Soil Surface  
Avg. Grade: 25% Max: 58%/30LF  
Min. Width: 36 inches  
Avg. X-slope: 10% Max: 10%/300LF

The Ada-hi Falls Trail provides a delightful but challenging walk into an outstanding example of a moist, north-slope Appalachian cove. The trail features mature hardwoods, lichen-covered rocks, a variety of ferns and wildflowers, and a dense thicket of rhododendron. At the trail's end is the observation platform for noisy Ada-hi Falls, a small cascade typical of those found at the higher elevations throughout the Blue Ridge Mountains.

NOTE: During dry weather, water flow is often reduced to a trickle.

## Norma Campbell Cove Trail

**.10-Mile**  
Avg. Travel Time: Half Hour | Foot Travel Only

Compacted Natural Soil Surface  
Moderate rating of difficulty.

This trail which is named after the late Norma Campbell, a popular park naturalist who first proposed the development of the Marie Mellinger Center. The tenth-of-a-mile scenic trail begins at the Center on the southern edge of the Eastern Continental Divide and descends into the upper reaches of a densely-wooded, south-facing cove. Hikers pass by huge rock outcrops framed by ferns, mayapple and trillium and will see gurgling springs that flow down the cove into Stekoa Creek, one of the principal tributaries of the federally-designated "wild and scenic" Chattooga River. Several log benches allow hikers to relax in the shade and enjoy this lush Appalachian hollow.

