

ROCK CLIMBING IN SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE



Travel

SoutheastTennessee.com

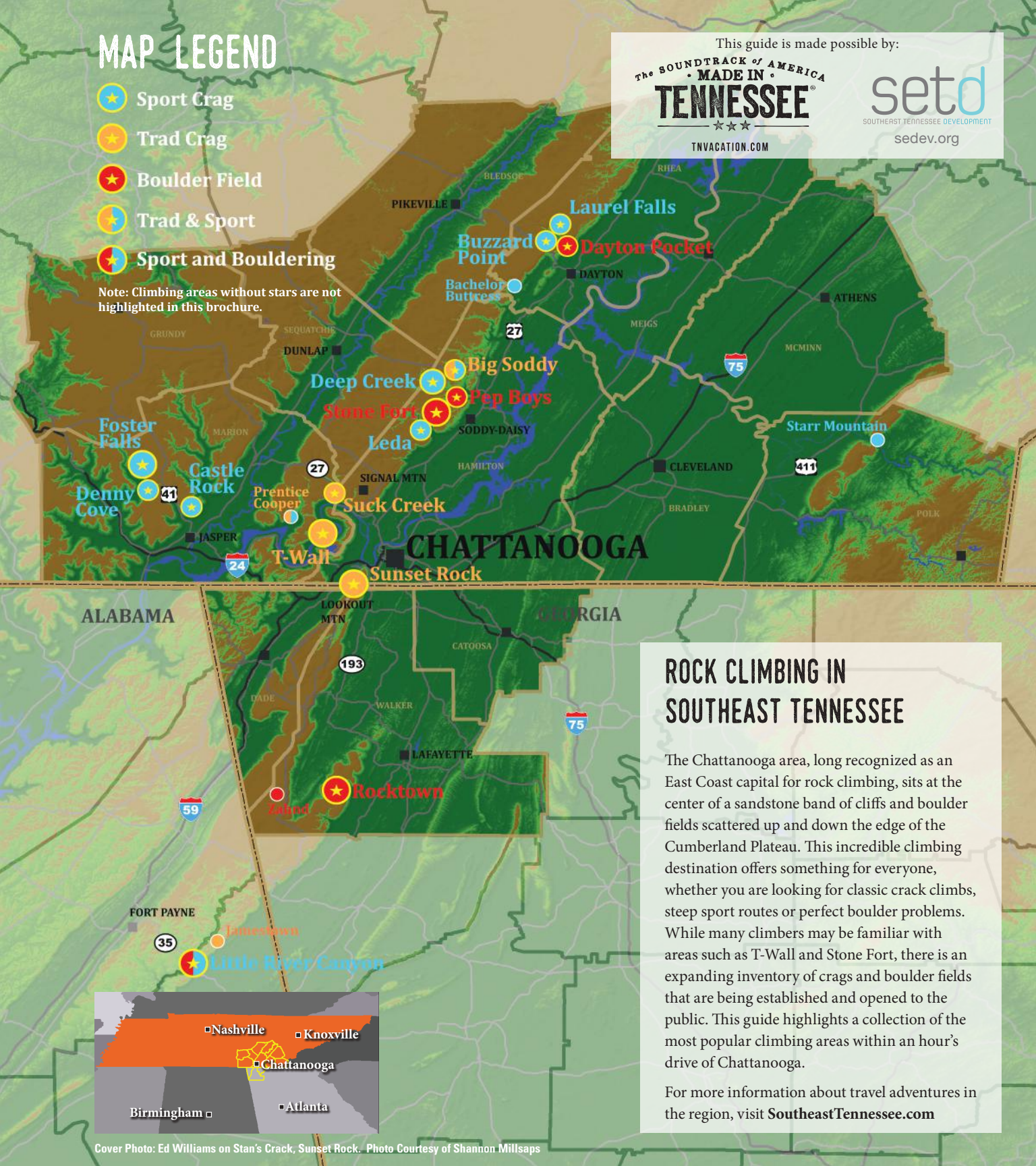
MAP LEGEND

-  Sport Crag
-  Trad Crag
-  Boulder Field
-  Trad & Sport
-  Sport and Bouldering

Note: Climbing areas without stars are not highlighted in this brochure.

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 SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE DEVELOPMENT
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ROCK CLIMBING IN SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE

The Chattanooga area, long recognized as an East Coast capital for rock climbing, sits at the center of a sandstone band of cliffs and boulder fields scattered up and down the edge of the Cumberland Plateau. This incredible climbing destination offers something for everyone, whether you are looking for classic crack climbs, steep sport routes or perfect boulder problems. While many climbers may be familiar with areas such as T-Wall and Stone Fort, there is an expanding inventory of crags and boulder fields that are being established and opened to the public. This guide highlights a collection of the most popular climbing areas within an hour's drive of Chattanooga.

For more information about travel adventures in the region, visit SoutheastTennessee.com

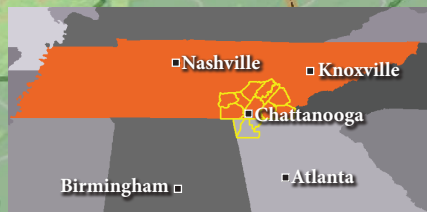


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Area	Climbing Destination	Page
Prentice Cooper State Forest	T-Wall	6
	Suck Creek	7
Lookout Mountain	Sunset Park	8
Jasper / Fiery Gizzard Gorge	Castle Rock	9
	Foster Falls	10
	Denny Cove	11
Mowbray Mountain	Stone Fort	12
	Leda	13
	Pep Boys	14
Soddy Creek Gorge	Deep Creek	16
	Big Soddy	17
Laurel Snow Pocket Wilderness	Laurel Falls / Buzzard Point	18
	Dayton Pocket	19
Georgia	Rocktown	20
Alabama	Little River Canyon	21

CLIMBING STYLE: Areas are color coded by the predominant style:

SPORT: Climbing on cliffs with ropes & fixed protection (bolts)

TRAD: Climbing on cliffs with ropes & removable protection

BOULDERING: Climbing on boulders over crash pads

DIRECTIONS: Coordinates and address information are provided for driving directions to climbing areas. Additional directions and parking information are provided as needed.

DRIVE TIME: All driving times are calculated from Chattanooga.

APPROACH: Use hiking directions as a supplement to the topos.

ACCESS: Please visit seclimbers.org for the latest access information on climbing areas.

DOGS: All dogs in Tennessee State Parks must be kept on leash.

GUIDES: This brochure is not intended to be an exhaustive list of climbing areas or a substitute for published guide books. Any climber looking to visit these areas is encouraged to purchase one of the guide books referenced throughout this brochure.

ICON LEGEND

 **DRIVE TIME**

 **HIKE TIME**

 **DOGS PERMITTED**

 **FEE**

 **CAMPING**

 **BLUE HOLE**



Protect America's Climbing

Climb Responsibly in the Forest

Many forested climbing areas are located near densely populated metropolitan areas and demand



Honor seasonal cliff-dwelling raptor closures by climbing elsewhere.



Minimize erosion by containing gear and pads to durable surfaces.



Keep a low profile by minimizing noise. Keep music to yourself.



Forest soil can biodegrade human waste in a properly dug cathole, but use a toilet or pack it out in high-use areas.

Learn more at: www.accessfund.org/forest



Recommended Routes: Golden Locks, 5.8+; Stone Wave, 5.11; Twistin' in the Wind, 5.12c (sport)

TENNESSEE WALL TRAD/SPORT

This bright orange cliff line perched above the Tennessee River Gorge is arguably the most popular trad climbing destination in the Southeast. With over 600 established lines, this 2-mile cliff offers all variety and grades of classic trad climbing, as well as an impressive list of hard sport routes. T-Wall is particularly well-known for classic crack climbs, big roofs and plentiful protection on some of the best stone in the region. This south-facing cliff receives all-day sun, making it the ideal winter climbing crag for anyone with a rack.

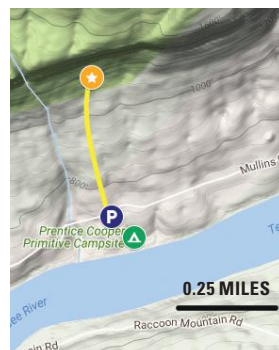
SEASON: Fall to early spring, best in winter

ACCESS: T-Wall is part of the Prentice Cooper State Forest, managed by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. Climbing in Prentice Cooper is prohibited during seasonal hunting dates. Call 423-658-5551 for more information.

APPROACH: The approach trail is located directly across from the parking area on Mullens Cove Rd. The majority of established lines are located to the right of the waterfall.

GUIDE: *Tennessee Wall Rock Climbing, Chatt Trad, Dixie Cragger's Atlas, Chatt Steel*

35.069038, -85.398932
Mullens Cove Rd
Whitwell, TN 37397



15-30 min.



30 min.



Primitive camping



Recommended Routes: Rockwork Orange, 5.10-; Rainbow Delta, 5.11

SUCK CREEK TRAD

For experienced trad climbers looking for more adventure and less traffic, Suck Creek has much to offer. This collection of cliffs lining the rim of Suck Creek Canyon is absent of both crowds and chalk, despite the proximity to Chattanooga. Climbers venturing up this less-charted vertical terrain will have their pick of intrepid trad climbs with plenty of type 2 fun.

SEASON: Fall to spring

ACCESS: The Arena and Concentration Camp climbing areas are part of Prentice Cooper State Forest, where climbing is prohibited during hunt dates. Call 423-658-5551 for more information.

PARKING: Climbing areas are approached from several pull-offs on a 2-mile stretch of Suck Creek Rd. after crossing over Suck Creek. Do not leave valuables in the car.

35.142312, -85.387319
Suck Creek Rd
Chattanooga, TN 37405

APPROACH: Approaches can be long and steep, and some require crossing Suck Creek.

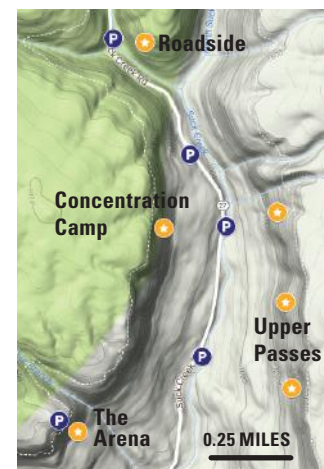
GUIDE: *Chatt Trad, Dixie Cragger's Atlas*



5-30 min.



20 min.





Recommended Routes: Windwalker 5.9; Golden Years 5.11-

SUNSET ROCK

TRAD

Sunset Rock, sitting on the northwest brow of Lookout Mountain, was one of the first crags established in the region. The high quality rock, ease of access, and scenic locale has been attracting climbers since the 1960s. The northern orientation of the cliff keeps many of these routes in the shade for much of the day, making Sunset an excellent warm-weather crag for trad climbers. Climbers that reach the top of the cliff are rewarded with great views of the Tennessee River and downtown Chattanooga.

SEASON: Spring to fall

ACCESS: Sunset Rock is part of Chickamauga National Battlefield Park on Lookout Mountain (706-866-9241). Sunset closes at sunset.

PARKING: Cravens House is now the designated parking area for climbers. Parking at the small trailhead lot is limited to 30 minutes and not to be used for climbing access.

APPROACH: Hike up Bluff Trail from Cravens House to Sunset Rock.

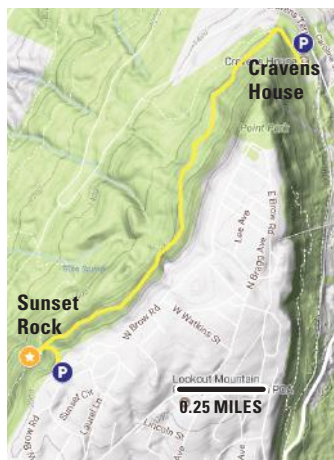
GUIDE: *Chatt Trad, Dixie Cragger's Atlas*

 15-30 min.

 20 min.



35.013815, -85.341172
915 Cravens Terrace
Chattanooga, TN 37409



Recommended Routes: Orange 5.10a; Apes on Acid 5.13d

CASTLE ROCK

SPORT

This sandstone turret overlooking the town of Jasper is known for its high concentration of classic face climbing on perfect rock with some great exposure. In recent years, a growing number of moderate climbs have been developed, broadening the appeal of this area.

SEASON: Fall to spring

ACCESS: Castle Rock is a privately owned climbing area leased by the SCC. Please keep noise to a minimum and be out by dark. See Seclimbers.org for more information.

PARKING: Turn right off of Hwy. 41 at Greystone sign and follow gravel drive to parking area. Text the make and model of your vehicle to the phone number (Castle Rock owner) posted in the lot. If the lot is full, please climb elsewhere.

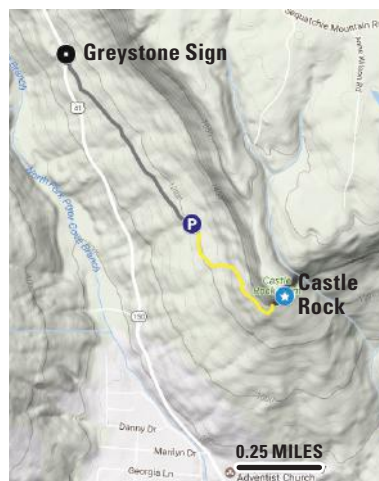
35.107284, -85.636438
US-41
Sequatchie, TN 37374

APPROACH: Hike through the stone yard and up the 4 x 4 trail to the crag.

GUIDE: *Chatt Steel*

 10-20 min.

 40 min.





Recommended Routes: Holy War, 5.9; Gas Chamber, 5.12d

FOSTER FALLS

SPORT

Foster Falls, located north of Jasper within South Cumberland State Park, is one of the most popular sport climbing destinations in the Southeast. The concentration of high-quality routes of all grades means that there is something for everyone. The climbing ranges from slightly overhanging to steep, and is often pumpy and technical. The swimming hole at Foster Falls and several shaded cliffs attract climbers throughout much of the summer.

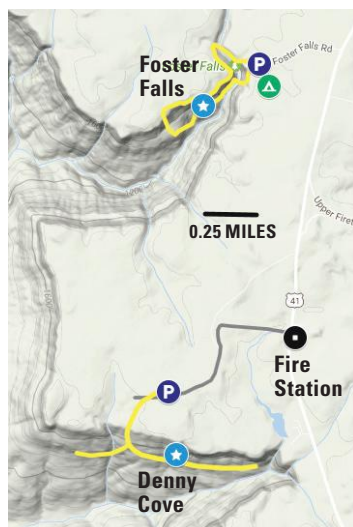
SEASON: Year-round, best in fall

ACCESS: Foster Falls is part of South Cumberland State Park (931-924-2980). The gate to the park is closed after dark.

APPROACH: Hike to the base of Foster Falls and turn left after the bridge to access the climber's loop.

GUIDE: *Chatt Steel, Dixie Cragger's Atlas*

35.182148, -85.672996
498 Foster Falls Rd
Sequatchie, TN 37374



15 min.



45 min.



Car camping available
March - Nov. and billed
on a per-site basis.



Recommended Routes: Three Star Salad Bar 5.9 +; One Legged Red 5.11b

DENNY COVE

SPORT

This brand new sport crag, located just south of Foster Falls, offers more than 100 routes from 5.8 to 5.14, with a few fun trad routes thrown in. Techy vertical faces and a plethora of big, steep lines will keep climbers of all kinds entertained. Denny Cove was purchased by the SCC with the help of the Access Fund, and transferred to South Cumberland State Park in 2017.

SEASON: Fall to spring

ACCESS: Denny Cove is now part of South Cumberland State Park. The access road is gated after dark. See Seclimbers.org for the latest access info.

PARKING: The entrance to Denny Cove is one mile south of Foster Falls. The new parking lot is located on a gated access road on the left side of US Hwy. 41, directly across the street from the Foster Falls Volunteer Fire Station (see topo).

APPROACH: The trail from the parking lot kiosk crosses the road and descends a gully to a fork in the trail. Turn left (toward waterfall) for Denny Right. Head right on the trail for Denny Left.

35.15826, -85.68194
US-41
Sequatchie, TN 37374



15 min.



45 min.





Brian Taylor

Recommended Boulders: Art of the Vogi V3; Deception V7

STONE FORT

BOULDERING

Stone Fort is one of the most popular boulder fields in the country and hosts the second leg of the Triple Crown Bouldering Series. This dense maze of sandstone has an unmatched concentration of classic bouldering for all skill levels. Stone Fort offers a wide variety of angles and styles, but is best known for gently overhanging face climbing on iron rails, slopers and perfect edges.

SEASON: Fall to spring, best in winter

ACCESS: Stone Fort is owned by Montlake Golf Course, which sells required day passes at the club house. Bouldering on the fairway is not permitted. Stone Fort is closed after dark. See Seclimbers.org for additional information.

GUIDE: *Stone Fort Bouldering*



5 min.



25 min.



Micah Gentry

Recommended Routes: Guardian Angel 5.9; Kent Belew's Original Route 5.11

LEDA

SPORT

Leda sits on the edge of Mowbray Mountain above the switchbacks on Montlake Road. This roadside crag is the go-to spot for convenience climbing close to town. The large selection of moderate sport climbs located minutes from the car makes Leda a great place for half-days and for beginning climbers.

SEASON: Fall to spring

ACCESS: Leda is owned by Montlake Golf Course. A day pass must be purchased at the Montlake Golf Course club house (9104 Brow Lake Rd., Soddy-Daisy, TN). Place your receipt on the dash of your car before hiking in to climb. Leda is closed after dark. See Seclimbers.org for more information.

PARKING: Park across from Terrace Falls Drive off Montlake Rd. Do not park in any of the pull-offs on Montlake Road (see topo).

APPROACH: Upper Leda is located downhill from the designated parking area.

GUIDE: *Chatt Steel, Dixie Cragger's Atlas*

35.23705, -85.22154

Montlake Rd
Soddy Daisy, TN 37379



5-10 min.



20 min.





Brian Taylor

Recommended Boulders: Salo's Roof V9; Riverside, V5

PEP BOYS

BOULDERING

If the crowded maze at Stone Fort is not your scene, head just down the road to a small, but concentrated, boulder field located right off the Cumberland Trail. Pep Boys is best known for steep lines such as Salo's Roof, but also offers a wide range of fun moderates.

SEASON: Fall to spring, best in winter

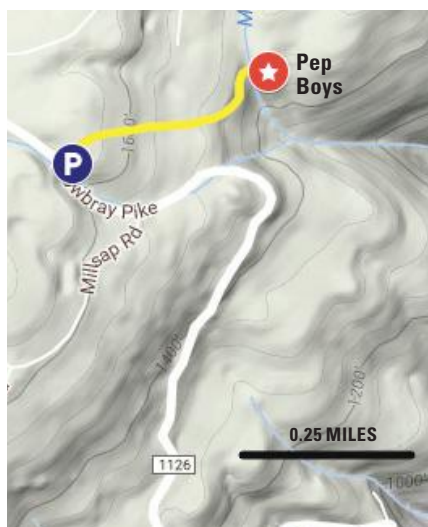
ACCESS: Pep Boys is part of Cumberland Trail State Park (423-566-2229) and is closed after dark.

PARKING: The trailhead includes parking for up to 8 vehicles.

APPROACH: Hike down the Cumberland Trail and past the clearing to the boulder field that starts along the creek.

35.25493, -85.20246

809 Mowbray Pike
Soddy Daisy, TN 37379



5 min.



25 min.



**SOUTHEASTERN
CLIMBERS
COALITION**

www.seclimbers.org

**Preserving Climbing
Areas for Future
Generations**

Linden Taber on Puppy Ride, Tennessee Wall
Photo: Alma Baste



Recommended Routes: Leakage, 5.12a; The Last Waltz, 5.13b

DEEP CREEK

SPORT

This sport crag, located off the Cumberland Trail at the confluence of Deep Creek and Soddy Creek, has recently emerged as one of the most popular climbing areas in the region. The climbing is characterized by steep overhangs with plenty of slopers and bouldery movement that will test your power endurance. The dense canopy and nearby swimming holes make Deep Creek a great warm-weather crag for climbers in search of steep sport routes.

SEASON: Late spring to fall

ACCESS: Deep Creek and Big Soddy are part of Cumberland Trail State Park (423-566-2229) and can be accessed from a gated parking area owned and managed by the SCC. The gate code can be found at Seclimbers.org. These climbing areas are closed after dark. Parking overnight in the SCC lot is not permitted.

PARKING: Make a sharp left off Old Hotwater Rd. onto a gravel road to reach the SCC parking lot (see topo). Lock the gate when entering and leaving the lot.

APPROACH: Follow the trail downhill and across the Deep Creek bridge to reach the main wall.

GUIDE: *Chatt Steel*

35.2957, -85.19505

Old Hotwater Rd
Soddy Daisy, TN 37379



25 min.



15-30 min.



Recommended Routes: Gift from Nature 5.8+; Air Nimbus 5.13 a/b (sport)

BIG SODDY

SPORT/TRAD

Just a 15-minute hike past Deep Creek and across the Soddy Creek bridge is Big Soddy. When the steep shady climbing at Deep Creek falls out of season, Big Soddy comes into its prime. These tall south-facing cliffs offer a mix of trad and sport routes with great exposure on vertical faces and big roofs with big air.

SEASON: Fall to spring

ACCESS: See Deep Creek.

PARKING: See Deep Creek.

APPROACH: Follow the trail from the parking lot kiosk and drop down switchbacks to Deep Creek. Cross the Deep Creek bridge and head right along the CT. Cross the Big Soddy Creek Suspension Bridge and hike up hill to the Big Soddy cliff.

GUIDE: *Chatt Trad*



25 min.



30-45 min.



35.2957, -85.19505

Old Hotwater Rd
Soddy Daisy, TN 37379





Recommended Routes: Laurel Falls: The Jackal, 5.14a; The Last Boy Scout, 5.12b
 Buzzard Point: Soul Sounds, 5.13a; Crankasaurus, 5.11a

LAUREL FALLS BUZZARD POINT

SPORT/TRAD

The Laurel-Snow Pocket Wilderness, just west of Dayton, is perfect for the 5.12+ sport climber looking for king lines with no lines. Climbers that make the 40+ minute trek to Laurel Falls are rewarded with some of the best hard sport climbing in the region. Climbers that continue to Buzzard Point will find an even larger collection of 3-Star sport climbs and panoramic views of the Pocket Wilderness.

SEASON: Fall to spring

ACCESS: The access road for the Laurel-Snow trail head is gated at sunset. Laurel-Snow Pocket Wilderness is managed by Cumberland Trail State Park (423-566-2229).

DIRECTIONS: The Laurel-Snow Pocket Wilderness trail head is located at the end of a gated gravel road (Pocket Wilderness Rd.) on the left side of Back Valley Rd.

APPROACH: Follow the trail along Richland Creek for 1.7 miles to a metal bridge over Laurel Creek. Take a right at the fork and continue uphill to Laurel Falls cliff line. To reach Buzzard Point go left at the fork to reach a footbridge over Richland Creek. Hike uphill for about a mile to the base of the cliff and hike left along the cliff line to the base of Buzzard Point.

GUIDE: *Chatt Steel, Dixie*
Cragger's Atlas



40-60 min.



45 min.



Backcountry camping
with permit



10-40 min.



45 min.



Backcountry camping
with permit.



20

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10

5

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V0

V1

V2

V3

V4

V5

V6

V7

V8

V9

V10

V11

V12

0

5

10

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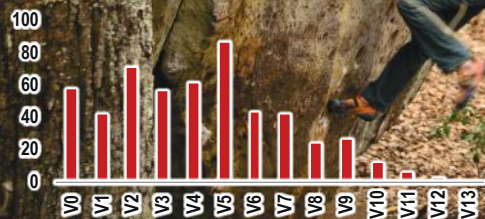
1375

1380

1385

1390

1395



Recommended Routes: Golden Harvest V10; The Hobbit V5

ROCKTOWN

BOULDERING

Every year climbers from across the country flock to Rocktown for some of the best bouldering that the South has to offer. Rocktown is best known for its steep climbing on featured rock with great friction and plenty of slopers. Boulders are scattered in clusters across a half-mile stretch of forest on top of Pigeon Mountain. As a result, Rocktown rarely feels crowded, despite its popularity.

SEASON: Late fall to early spring, best in winter

ACCESS: Rocktown is part of the Crockford-Pigeon Mountain Wildlife Management Area managed by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. A GORP pass must be purchased from Gooutdoorsgeorgia.com to climb at Rocktown.

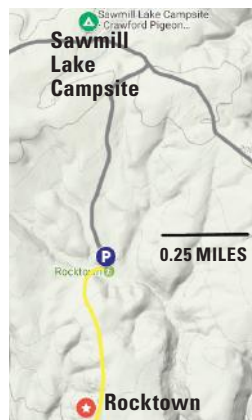
DIRECTIONS: From Chaimberlain Rd., turn right onto Rocky Lane and continue up Pigeon Mountain for 3.5 miles to a right turn on a gravel road. Turn left on Rocktown Rd.

APPROACH: Follow the trail for a half-mile and bouldering areas will appear on the right.

GUIDE: *Rocktown*

34.637611, -85.401177

Rocktown Rd
Chickamauga, GA 30707



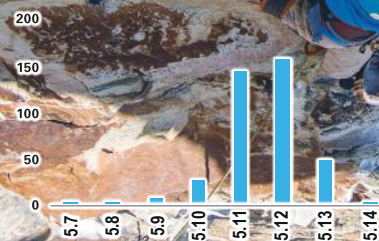
45 min.



15-25 min.



Primitive camping sites near parking



Recommended Routes: Tangerine, 5.12a; Caliban, 5.13a/b
Recommended Boulders: Haiku V6; Engagement Arete V7

LITTLE RIVER CANYON

SPORT/BOULDERING

Little River Canyon is the largest and steepest sport climbing destination within an hour's drive of Chattanooga. A variety of cliff orientations allow climbers to chase sun or shade, while the overhanging terrain makes it easy to find dry rock in the rain. The canyon is also filled with boulders and swimming holes along the river that attract climbers throughout the summer.

SEASON: Year-round

ACCESS: Little River Canyon National Preserve is managed by the National Park Service (256-845-3548).

APPROACH: Climbing areas are approached from pull-offs along Little River Canyon Parkway.

GUIDE: *Little River Canyon Climbing Guide*

34.3833, -85.62731

Little River Canyon Pkwy
Fort Payne, AL 35967



60 min.



15 min.



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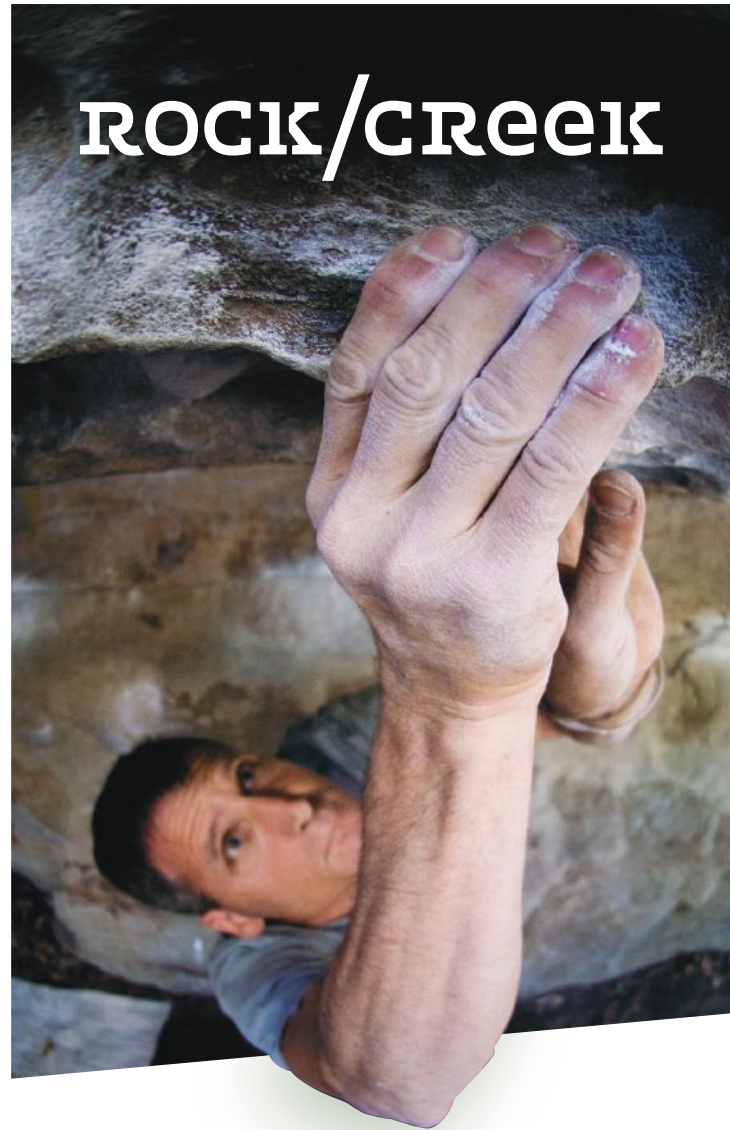
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Erin Leverage on Super Mario, Stone Fort Photo: Rob Pryor



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