

# WATERFALL WONDER IN SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE



*Travel* SOUTHEAST  
**TENNESSEE**



[SOUTHEASTTENNESSEE.COM](http://SOUTHEASTTENNESSEE.COM)

# WATERFALLS OF SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE

On the Cover:

??

Photo courtesy of ??



## ICON LEGEND

- Safe to Swim
- Leashed Dogs Welcome
- Easy Hike
- Moderate Hike
- Difficult Hike
- Restrooms

### South Cumberland State Park

1. Foster Falls
2. Sycamore Falls and Bluehole Falls
3. Suter Falls and Horsepound Falls
4. Greeter Falls and Boardtree Falls
5. Laurel Falls

6. Ranger Creek Falls
7. Savage Falls
8. Fall Creek Falls State Park  
Fall Creek Falls, Piney Creek,  
Cane Creek & Rockhouse Falls

### Cumberland Trail

9. Big Soddy Creek Gulf Waterfall
10. Imodium & Richey Ridge Falls
11. Laurel Falls and Snow Falls
12. Upper & Lower Piney Falls

### Cherokee National Forest

13. Benton Falls
14. Gee Creek Falls
15. Coker Creek Falls
16. Turtletown Falls

Come explore the falling waters that have sculpted South-East Tennessee's scenic landscape. There's just no better way to experience the region's lush green scenery than by sitting on a warm boulder in the misty realm of a waterfall or hiking alongside a cascading creek.

Waterfall Wonder features some of the most scenic and accessible waterfalls on public lands in Southeast Tennessee, from impressive veils of water plunging over cliffs to cascades tumbling over rocky outcroppings. This guide spans the 10 counties of Southeast Tennessee, from South Cumberland State Park on the Cumberland Plateau, north to Fall Creek Falls State Park, south along sections of the Cumberland Trail in Dayton and the Greater Chattanooga Area, and east to the Cherokee National Forest.

## WATERFALL SAFETY

Please be cautious when visiting area waterfalls:

- Wear stable shoes and avoid slippery rocks or crossing in dangerous places.
- Keep children a safe distance from dangerous ledges and do not lean over ledges to view waterfalls.
- Never jump off waterfalls or dive into pools of water because of dangerous unseen objects below the surface, including logs and boulders.
- Black bears reside in the wooded areas of Southeast Tennessee, especially the Cherokee National Forest. Before you set out, learn what to do if you unexpectedly encounter a bear. For more information, visit: [www.fs.usda.gov/detail/cherokee/recreation](http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/cherokee/recreation)
- Keep in mind that most waterfalls are located in remote locations without cell phone coverage. Tell someone where you are going



# WATERFALLS WITHIN SOUTH CUMBERLAND STATE PARK

South Cumberland State Park is composed of over 31,000 acres in nine separate sections of the park. Part of the Cumberland Plateau, the area features spectacular waterfalls, safe swimming areas, hiking trails, rock climbing and backcountry camping. For more great tips to plan your adventure, visit: [FriendsOfSouthCumberland.org/plan-your-visit](https://FriendsOfSouthCumberland.org/plan-your-visit)

## South Cumberland State Park Visitor Center

11745 US-41

Monteagle, TN

931-924-2980

Open Mon. through Sun. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. CST

[tnstateparks.com/parks/about/south-cumberland](https://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/south-cumberland)



Photo credit: Bob Butters

## 1 Foster Falls

Fiery Gizzard South Trailhead, Sequatchie, TN (Marion Co.)

Foster Falls is a spectacular 60-foot waterfall plunging into a deep pool of water. It's a quick and easy walk along a handi-capped-accessible trail to the overlook at Foster Falls. From there, a more difficult trail leads to a suspension bridge at the base of the falls (1 mile round-trip). Backcountry camping at Father Adamz Campground off the Climber's Loop Trail and vehicle camping at Foster Falls. Reservations:

[reserve.tnstateparks.com/south-cumberland/campsites](https://reserve.tnstateparks.com/south-cumberland/campsites)

### Directions:

From Chattanooga, take I-24 W to TN-28 N in Jasper (exit 155). Follow signs for US-41 N/TN-150 toward Tracy City. Follow TN-150 to the top of the plateau and proceed 3 miles to Foster Falls Road on the left, which leads to the Fiery Gizzard South trailhead, and to Foster Falls.



[SoutheastTennessee.com](https://SoutheastTennessee.com)

GPS Waypoint:  
35.18177, -85.676



## 2 Sycamore, Hanes Hole *and* Blue Hole Falls

Fiery Gizzard North trailhead, Tracy City, TN (Grundy Co.)

This moderate 2.6-mile round-trip hike starts as the Grundy Day Loop and takes you past 9-foot Blue Hole Falls, 10-foot Hanes Hole Falls, Black Canyon Cascades and some interesting geologic formations. Take the short 0.6-mile spur trail (Fiery Gizzard Trail) to arrive at 12-foot Sycamore Falls. Take a dip in swimming holes at Sycamore and Blue Hole Falls.

### Directions:

From Chattanooga, take I-24 W to exit 135 in Monteagle and continue right. Turn right to follow US-41 S toward Tracy City. Turn right on 3rd Street and follow the signs to the Fiery Gizzard North trailhead, in the Grundy Forest State Natural Area.



Photo credit: Rick Dreves

GPS Waypoints:  
35.2463, -85.75493  
35.2504, -85.7506



Photo credit: Wendy Fish

## 3 Suter Falls *and* Horsepound Falls

Savage Gulf South trailhead, Gruetli-Laager and Palmer, TN (Grundy Co.)

From the parking area trailhead, take a short access trail and turn left on the Collins Gulf Trail for a challenging 2-mile round-trip hike to 50-foot Suter Falls. Watch for some interesting rock shelters and high bluffs along the way. From Suter Falls, continue on the Collins Gulf Trail an additional 3.6 miles (round-trip from Suter Falls) into the gorge to arrive at 25-foot Horsepound Falls, where local residents hid their ammunition and horses from the advancing Union Army during the Civil War. The Collins Campground offers 5 backcountry camp sites, about one mile in from the Savage Gulf South trailhead.

Camping reservations:

[reserve.tnstateparks.com/south-cumberland/campsites](https://reserve.tnstateparks.com/south-cumberland/campsites)

### Directions:

From Chattanooga, take I-24 W to exit 155 (Jasper). Take TN-28 N to Whitwell. Turn left on TN 108-N for 17 miles to Gruetli-Laager, then look for 55th Avenue, on the right. The Savage Gulf South trailhead is at the end of 55th Ave, in the Savage Gulf State Natural Area.



GPS Waypoints:  
35.4109, -85.5974  
35.429, -85.6022





## 4 Greeter Falls and Boardtree Falls

Savage Gulf West trailhead, Altamont, TN (Grundy Co.)

Firescald Creek spills over Greeter Falls, which consists of a 15-foot upper waterfall and 50-foot lower waterfall. It's a 2.25-mile round-trip hike along the Greeter Falls Loop Trail to experience both the upper and lower sections of Greeter Falls, as well as Boardtree Falls. A metal spiral staircase descends the bluff, leading to the lower section of Greeter Falls. Watch for steep ledges along the trail. From the Greeter Falls Loop Trail, a 1-mile (round-trip) spur trail leads to a safe swimming area at Blue Hole. There is also safe swimming at the bottom of Greeter Falls.

### Directions:

From Chattanooga, take I-24 W to exit 135 in Monteagle and continue right. Turn right to follow US-41 S approx. 5.5 miles toward Tracy City. Turn left on TN-56 N and travel 16 miles. After passing through Altamont, look for the Savage Gulf West trailhead sign, and turn right. Road ends at the Savage Gulf West trailhead parking lot, in the Savage Gulf State Natural Area.

GPS Waypoints:  
35.4343, -85.69624  
35.436, -85.6936

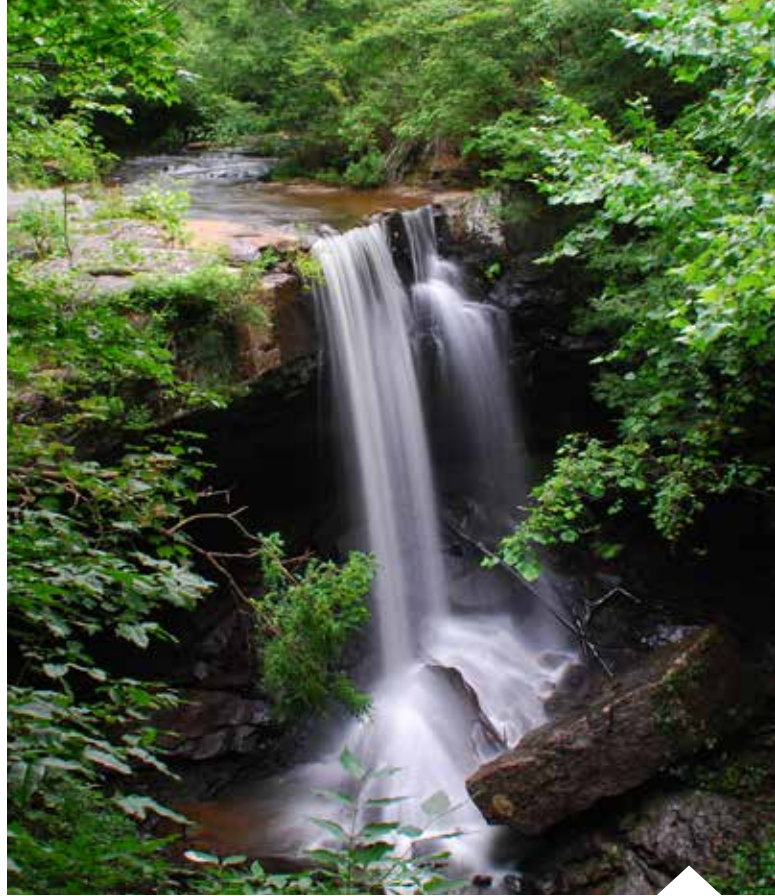


Photo credit: Bob Butters

## 5 Laurel Falls

Savage Gulf North trailhead, Beersheba Springs, TN (Grundy County)

It's a short 0.3-mile round-trip hike from the Stone Door Ranger Station to view the overlook of Laurel Falls, where Laurel Creek drops 25 feet off a bluff with a hollowed-out amphitheater behind it into a pool of blue water. Look for remaining foundation stones from a mill that once operated along the creek. Camping reservations: [reserve.tnstateparks.com/south-cumberland/campsites](https://reserve.tnstateparks.com/south-cumberland/campsites)

### Directions:

From Chattanooga, take I-24 W to exit 135 in Monteagle and continue right. Turn right to follow US-41 S approx. 5.5 miles toward Tracy City. Turn left on TN-56 N toward Coalmont. Turn right on Stone Door Rd. in Beersheba Springs and travel 1.5 miles to the Savage Gulf North trailhead, at the Stone Door Ranger Station, on the left.



GPS Waypoint:  
35.4468, -85.6536





## 6 Ranger Creek Falls

Savage Gulf North trailhead, Beersheba Springs, TN  
(Grundy Co.)

From the Stone Door Ranger's Station, it's a rugged 6.6-mile round-trip hike into the Big Creek Gorge to see Ranger Creek Falls the widest waterfall in South Cumberland State Park drops 30 feet. Take the Stone Door Trail to the Big Creek Gulf Trail. At the intersection of Stone Door Trail and Big Creek Gulf Trail, check out Great Stone Door Bluffs and walk down through the Great Stone Door Staircase. At the bottom of the Staircase, follow the trail 2 miles to Ranger Creek Falls Trail, which leads to the waterfall. The Stone Door Campground offers 12 backcountry and 3 group camp sites, just a short walk from the parking area. Camping reservations: [reserve.tnstateparks.com/south-cumberland/campsites](https://reserve.tnstateparks.com/south-cumberland/campsites)

### Directions:

From Chattanooga, take I-24 W to exit 135 in Monteagle and continue right. Turn right to follow US-41 S approx. 5.5 miles toward Tracy City. Turn left on TN-56 N toward Coalmont. Turn right on Stone Door Rd. in Beersheba Springs and travel 1.5 miles to the Savage Gulf North trailhead, at the Stone Door Ranger Station, on the left.



GPS Waypoint:  
35.422839, -85.660192

Photo credit: Brandon Jett

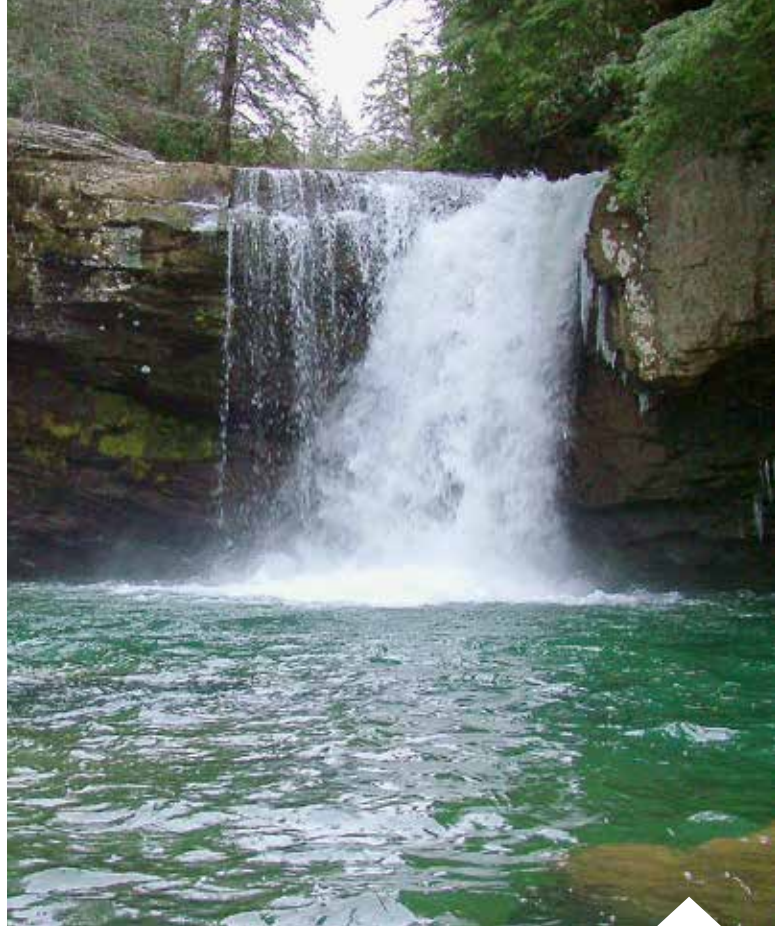


Photo credit: Rick Dreves

## 7 Savage Falls

Savage Gulf East trailhead, Palmer, TN (Grundy Co.)

From the Savage Gulf Ranger Station, it's a 3.4-mile round-trip hike to Savage Falls. Along the way, enjoy two swinging bridges across Boyd Branch and Savage Creek. Take the Savage Day Loop Trail, turn left at the Loop Junction, and turn left on the South Rim Trail, which leads to Savage Falls. Enjoy a safe swim area at the base of the falls. Savage Station Campground offers 8 backcountry camp sites, just a short walk from the parking area. Camping reservations: [reserve.tnstateparks.com/south-cumberland/campsites](https://reserve.tnstateparks.com/south-cumberland/campsites)

### Directions:

From Chattanooga, take US-27 N to TN-111 N. After 47 miles, turn left on TN-399 to the Savage Gulf East Trailhead, on your right, in the Savage Gulf State Natural Area.



GPS Waypoint:  
35.4411, -85.5537



# WATERFALLS AT FALL CREEK FALLS STATE PARK



Fall Creek Falls State Park is Tennessee's largest and most-visited state park, encompassing more than 29,000 acres atop the Cumberland Plateau. The park is located 18 miles west of Pikeville and 11 miles east of Spencer. In addition to Fall Creek Falls, the tallest waterfall in the eastern United States, the park features more than 34 miles of trails and multiple waterfalls, lodge/restaurant, cabins and campsites, a golf course, pool and a nature center.

## Fall Creek Falls State Park

2009 Village Camp Rd.

Spencer, TN

423-881-5298

[tnstateparks.com/parks/fall-creek-falls](http://tnstateparks.com/parks/fall-creek-falls)



## Fall Creek Falls

**Fall Creek Falls State Park**  
Pikeville, TN (Bledsoe Co.)

At 256 feet, Fall Creek Falls is the tallest waterfall in the eastern United States. It's a quick and easy walk to the overlook at Fall Creek Falls. The Fall Creek Falls Trail is a more challenging half-mile, one-way trail that leads to the bottom of the falls. Other trails throughout the park offer views of Fall Creek Falls and other waterfalls, including Piney Falls, Cane Creek Falls, Cane Creek Cascades and Rockhouse Falls.

### Directions:

From Chattanooga, take US-27 N to TN-111 N. Travel 50 miles and turn right on TN-284 E to the entrance of Fall Creek Falls State Park.



GPS Waypoint:  
35.66583, -85.35583



# WATERFALLS OF THE CUMBERLAND TRAIL



The Cumberland Trail traverses 190 miles of the Cumberland Plateau, spanning 11 counties in East Tennessee. This developing trail system, which currently features 15 segments, offers hikers access to remote areas with spectacular overlooks, waterfalls and wilderness experiences that are trademarks of the southeastern United States.

## Cumberland Trail State Park

220 Park Rd.

Caryville, TN

423-566-2229

[cumberlandtrail.org](http://cumberlandtrail.org)



## 9 Big Soddy Creek Gulf Waterfall

**Connects to the Cumberland Trail**  
Soddy-Daisy, TN (Hamilton Co.)

It's an easy 2-mile round-trip hike along an old mining road to this wet-weather waterfall that tumbles 30 feet over a rock wall into Big Soddy Creek. This family-friendly trail follows alongside the cascading river and includes stops for wading and skipping rocks. The waterfall is not visible during dry periods.

### Directions:

From Chattanooga, take US-27 N to Hwy. 111 N. Take Back Valley Rd. exit and turn left on Back Valley Rd. Pass under highway and follow signs to parking area on the right.



GPS Waypoint  
35.3066, -85.1795



## 10 Richey Ridge Falls *and* Imodium Falls

The Cumberland Trail: Possum Gorge Segment  
Soddy-Daisy, TN (Hamilton Co.)

It's a short and easy walk from parking to view Richey Ridge Falls, an 18-foot wet-weather cascade along the Cumberland Trail. From Richey Ridge Falls, continue on for a more challenging 9-mile round-trip hike to 25-foot Imodium Falls (aka Little Possum Creek Falls).

### Directions:

From Chattanooga, follow US-27 N through Soddy-Daisy. Follow TN-111 N and proceed 5 miles to the Jones Gap Rd. exit and turn right. Immediately turn right on Heiss Mountain Rd., and travel 0.5 mile. Look for the trailhead with Cumberland Trail signage. Parking is available along the side of the road.



GPS Waypoints: 35.3469, -85.1755  
35.3674, -85.1753



## 11 Laurel Falls *and* Snow Falls

The Cumberland Trail: Laurel-Snow State Natural Area  
Dayton, TN (Rhea Co.)

The Laurel-Snow section of the Cumberland Trail is an area of gorges cut into Walden's Ridge, part of the Cumberland Plateau. From the trailhead, it is 1.7 miles to the split where the Laurel Falls spur trail forks to the right and the Snow Falls spur trail forks to the left. Take the steep Laurel Falls spur trail 0.7 miles to the base of the 80-foot falls and continue on to the top of the falls and to two overlooks for a 6.6-mile round-trip hike from the trailhead. The hike to 35-foot Snow Falls, which is located at the end of the Snow Falls spur trail, is a moderate 9.6 mile hike (round-trip) from the trailhead.

### Directions:

From Chattanooga, take US-27 N toward Dayton. Turn left on Walnut Grove Rd. Continue 0.7 mile and turn left on Back Valley Rd. In 0.7 mile, turn right on gravel road for Laurel-Snow State Natural Area. Proceed 1 mile to the parking lot on Richland Creek Rd.



GPS Waypoints: 35.5472, -85.02396  
35.54667, -85.03861





Photo credit: Ronnie Phipps

## 12 Upper Piney Falls and Lower Piney Falls

**The Cumberland Trail:  
Piney Falls Designated State Natural Area  
Grandview, TN (Rhea Co.)**

This 2.2-mile round-trip trail will take you to where Little Piney Creek plunges some 80 feet over Upper Piney Falls into a pool below, and then drops another 40 feet over Lower Piney Falls. From the parking lot, follow the trail along an old dirt road for about a half mile until you come to a fork in trail. The trail to the right leads to the ledge overlook of Upper Piney Falls (use caution on ledges!) and a trail to the left leads to the base of the falls down in the gorge. These two trails eventually connect if you wish to hike the full loop. The Lower Falls is not easily accessible by the main trail for viewing.

### **Directions:**

From Chattanooga, follow US-27 N to TN-68 N in Spring City. Follow TN-68 N into the Grandview Community. Look for a sign for Piney Falls State Natural area and turn left on Firetower Rd. Travel 1.5 miles to the parking area and trailhead on the right.



GPS Waypoint:  
35.73111, -84.86361

# WATERFALLS WITHIN THE CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST



Home to the Ocoee and Hiwassee rivers, the Cherokee National Forest, the largest tract of public land in Tennessee, is a landscape defined by cascades, rapids and scenic waters. The Forest also offers numerous opportunities for hiking, paddling, biking and camping.

### **Ocoee Ranger District**

3171 US-64  
Benton, TN  
423-338-3300  
[fs.usda.gov/cherokee](https://fs.usda.gov/cherokee)



**SoutheastTennessee.com**





Photo credit: Jim Caldwell

## 13 Benton Falls

**Cherokee National Forest: Chilhowee Recreation Area**  
Benton, TN (Polk Co.)

Located in the Chilhowee Recreation Area near the Ocoee River, the drive to Benton Falls following the Ocoee Scenic Byway is just as scenic as the waterfall, offering overlooks of Sugarloaf Mountain and Parksville Lake. From the McCamy Lake parking lot, take Benton Falls Trail #131 for an easy 3-mile round-trip hike to this stunning 65-foot-high waterfall. Cool off from your hike in the shallow pools at the bottom of the falls.

### Directions:

From Chattanooga, take I-75 N to exit 20 (Cleveland) and turn right on US-74 E. Travel US-74 E for approx. 6 miles to US-64 E. From US-64 E, follow the Ocoee Scenic Byway and turn left on FS Road 77. Travel approx. 7.5 miles to the Chilhowee Recreation Area (McCamy Lake). Trail begins to the left of the bathhouse. Day use fee: \$3



GPS Waypoint:  
35.14048, -84.5961

## 14 Gee Creek Falls

**Cherokee National Forest: Gee Creek Wilderness**  
Benton, TN (Polk Co.)

Gee Creek Trail #191, which lies almost entirely within the congressionally designated Gee Creek Wilderness, is an easy 2.6-mile round-trip hike leading to a gorgeous double waterfall that plunges 25 feet into a deep pool. Look for a concrete water divider within the creek that was used in the late 1800s to wash mined silica during the region's mining era. This is a hiking-only trail. Recreation in congressionally designated Wilderness is intended to be primitive in nature and group size is limited to 12 people. For more information, visit: [fs.usda.gov/activity/cherokee/recreation/hiking](https://fs.usda.gov/activity/cherokee/recreation/hiking)

### Directions:

From Chattanooga, take I-75 N to exit 20 (Cleveland) and turn right on US-74 E. Travel US-74 E for 6 miles to US-64 E. Take US-411 N exit and travel approximately 14 miles. In Delano, turn right on Gee Creek Road and continue for 2.2 miles to the signed trailhead, just before a left curve. Paved road becomes dirt road ending at FS Trail #191 trailhead parking lot.



GPS Waypoint:  
35.247, -84.5261







Photo credit: Tennessee Overhill Heritage Association

## 15 Coker Creek Falls

Cherokee National Forest  
Coker Creek, TN (Polk Co.)

Take Coker Creek Trail #183 for a 3-mile round-trip hike to Coker Creek Falls, a series of cascades ranging from 5 to 45 feet. The trail follows Coker Creek, a shallow creek perfect for summertime splashing.

### Directions:

From Chattanooga, take I-75 N to exit 60 (Sweetwater). Turn right on TN-68 S and drive approx. 35 miles to Coker Creek. Turn right on Ironsburg Road (County Rd. 628) and proceed approx. 3.52 miles. Turn left on FS Road 2138 and follow downhill for approx. 0.92 miles to the Coker Creek Falls trailhead parking lot.



GPS Waypoint  
35.19727, -84.37028

## 16 Turtletown Falls , Upper and Lower

Cherokee National Forest  
Turtletown, TN (Polk Co.)

Turtletown Creek Trail #185 is a moderate 3.5 mile round-trip loop trail that follows Turtletown Creek and loops back to Shinbone Ridge. The hike features scenic views of the Hiwassee River and overlooks of two major waterfalls: Lower Turtletown Falls (40') and Turtletown Falls (30').

### Directions:

From Chattanooga, take I-75 N to exit 20 (Cleveland) and turn right on US-74 E. Travel US-74 E for 6 miles to US-64 E and continue to Ducktown. Take TN-68 N to Turtletown and turn left on Farner Rd. Travel approx. 2.8 miles to the gravel FS Road #1166 on the left (not marked from the road). Once on FS Road #1166, continue approx. 1.5 miles until the road dead-ends at the FS Trail #185 trailhead.



GPS Waypoint  
35.1639, -84.35276







2573 Hwy 283 • Powells Crossroads, TN  
Sequatchie Valley • 423-658-8575

---

Homemade Food  
Fresh Ingredients

---

Full Breakfast Menu  
All Day -Every Day

---

Lunch and Dinner

---

**HOURS:**

Tuesday - Friday  
7am - 7pm CST

---

Saturday  
7am - 2pm CST

[www.suebobs.com](http://www.suebobs.com)