
What are some easy hikes?

Posted by mzymac - 2008/01/27 23:20

Hi does any one know what would be an easy hike in the Smokies? We're planning to visit in April and I want to take my kids (6 and 3) on a hike.

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Re:What are some easy hikes?

Posted by gflynn - 2008/01/30 19:33

Hi! You're planning on visiting at a beautiful time of year! I love spring in the Smokies.

If you want to keep the hike short as well as non-strenuous I would recommend either Laurel Falls which is about 3 miles past the Sugarlands Visitor Center outside of Gatlinburg or Grotto Falls which is off the Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail also just outside Gatlinburg. Both these trails are listed as moderate in difficulty by the National Park, but they are some of the easier trails. Also, Laurel Falls is a 2.6 mile round trip and Grotto Falls is 3 miles round trip.

The best part of visiting any falls in the spring is that spring runoff will cause the falls to be bigger and more impressive than they are at, say the end of summer. Of course most trails in the spring will also be muddy, so wear hiking boots or shoes you don't mind getting dirty. And bring a jacket even on a spring day, since the mountains are always colder than surrounding cities. Enjoy your trip and be sure to return to let us know how it went!

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