

Sumter National Forest

South Carolina

Earls Ford Hiking Trail



Southern Region, USDA Forest Service

Date: 3/26/2004

Highlights

To reach the mini-rapids and broad flat water of the scenic Chattooga River, follow this gently sloping 0.3-mile hiking trail. You will descend through mixed hardwood and pine forest in the quiet, fresh mountain air. A number of small foot paths divert from the easy to follow main trail. Just before you reach the river, go left at the boulder and you will reach the riverbank. Watch for deer, snakes, and other wildlife.

For More Information

*Andrew Pickens Ranger District
112 Andrew Pickens Circle
Mountain Rest, SC 29664
Phone: (864) 638-9568
Fax: (864) 638-2659
Hours: Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.*

Directions: From Walhalla, drive northwest on SC 28 and turn left onto Whetstone Road (193). Drive 5 miles and cross Chattooga Ridge Road (196) where Whetstone becomes Earls Ford Road. Continue another 4 miles to the parking area at the end of the Earls Ford Road. The trail is at the end of the parking area.

Camping: Primitive camping is allowed. Choose a site at least 50 feet from the trail, 50 feet from the river or any tributary stream and ¼ mile from the road. Please respect specific limitations when posted.

Difficulty Level: easy

Length: 0.3 miles

Safety: This is an isolated area, so remember to take water, first aid supplies, and insect repellent.

Season: year-round.

Surface type: gravel

Travel Time: 15 minutes (one way)

Volunteers for trail maintenance are always needed and welcome. Contact the district office.

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Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests

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