

Sumter National Forest

South Carolina

Fork Mountain Trail



Southern Region, USDA Forest Service

Date: 3/26/2004

Highlights

This moderately difficult, 6.4-mile trail starts in South Carolina at the Sloan Bridge Picnic Area and ends in North Carolina where it joins the Bad Creek Trail in the Ellicott Rock Wilderness Area. From here, the trail eventually becomes the Chattooga Trail and continues southwest to Burrells Ford. The hike plunges almost immediately into a dense canopy of mountain laurel and rhododendron, where you'll stay cool and shady most of the way. The trail also weaves along the northern flanks of Fork Mountain, ascending and descending through numerous coves and ravines. Rust blazes guide you from the trailhead at Sloan Bridge, but be aware that some trail markers are some distance apart. Since the trail is lightly used, fallen trees and occasional undergrowth may present some problems. At the junction with the Bad Creek Trail, you can return or extend your hike approximately 1.3 miles to Ellicott Rock.

Surrounding Area

Cherry Hill Recreation Area and Oconee State Park

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 for 7.5 miles and bear right onto SC 107. Continue on SC 107 for 14.5 miles to the junction of Oconee County S-413. The Sloan Bridge Picnic Area is approximately .5 mile ahead on the left. From the parking lot, walk north across the highway culvert that crosses East Fork Creek.

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: moderately difficult

Length: 6.4 miles

Safety: Fallen trees and occasional undergrowth may present some problems.

Season: year-round

Surface Type: dirt

Trail Blazes: rust

Travel Time: 3 hours

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

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Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests

4931 Broad River Road, Columbia, SC 29212-3530 (803) 561-4000

