



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

ALABAMA'S NATIONAL FORESTS GREAT ESCAPES

1. BANKHEAD NATIONAL FOREST WATERFALLS

Nicknamed the “Land of a Thousand Waterfalls,” most trails to well-known waterfalls are remote and not maintained as official trails. Your safety is your responsibility. Be aware of your surroundings, watch your step, and use caution as you explore. Enjoy the Bankhead by following “Leave No Trace” (<https://lnt.org/>) principles. You can find trail maps here: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/alabama/maps-pubs>

2. OWL CREEK NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL SYSTEM

This trail system contains nearly 25 miles of trails for non-motorized use, including hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking. Begin your visit at the Pine Torch Trailhead on Lawrence County Road 70. Trail users may choose from loops of varying lengths. Primitive overnight camping for equestrians is available at the Owl Creek Horse Campground and for hikers and mountain bikers at the Brushy Lake Campground. Both provide campsites, drinking water, and toilet facilities.

3. SIPSEY WILDERNESS SIPSEY RIVER, PICNIC AREA + TRAILHEAD

This 25,770-acre wilderness area is a remote area of the forest. A 55-mile trail system provides the only access to the heart of these wildlands. There are no facilities in this area and limited parking access at trailheads. Plan and be prepared for changing weather conditions. Inform others of your travel plans. Take a compass, map, and GPS during your adventure. Enjoy the Sipsey as you practice “Leave No Trace.”

4. NATURAL BRIDGE PICNIC AREA

This picnic site is Alabama's oldest national forest recreation site. Enjoy picnic tables and a 1/2 mile paved trail that leads to a natural rock arch in the hardwood forest.

5. CLEAR CREEK RECREATION AREA

One of the National Forests in Alabama's most popular areas, Clear Creek Recreation Area is also the largest recreation site on the shores of Lewis Smith Lake. The recreation area contains conveniences for camping, including 102 single and double units with electrical and water hookups. Picnicking, swimming, boat launching, hiking, and biking are available. For reservations, visit <https://www.recreation.gov>.

Bankhead National Forest “Land of a Thousand Waterfalls”

Forest Service Southern Region / National Forests in Alabama
Informational Handout 0002 / Bankhead Ranger District (205) 489-5111
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6. HURRICANE CREEK SHOOTING RANGE

The shooting range is open to firearm users for target practice or to improve gun training skills. Clay targets are prohibited at the Hurricane Creek Shooting Range. Target range distances are 25, 50, and 100 yards. It is open year-round.

7. HOUSTON RECREATION AREA

The area offers 14 picnic sites, a group shelter for up to 50 persons, showers, drinking water, swimming, hiking trails, and a boat launch along Lewis Smith Lake. No camping is allowed.

8. FLINT CREEK TRAILHEAD

The 16-mile trail is for motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles (less than 50-inch width), horses, bike riders, and hikers.

9. CORINTH RECREATION AREA

Corinth is a relaxing campground located on the shores of Lewis Smith Lake. It offers individual camping, picnicking, swimming, and boat launching facilities. There are 52 campsites with electrical, water, and sewer hookups. The day-use area contains dressing rooms and showers, 29 picnic sites, a 100-person pavilion, a swimming beach, and a double-lane boat ramp. For reservations, visit www.recreation.gov

10. BRUSHY LAKE RECREATION AREA

At 33 acres, the recreation area has 13 campsites that can accommodate tiny recreational vehicles or tents. It offers everything from camping, picnicking, hiking, boating, and fishing to sanitary facilities.

DISTRICT OFFICE

The Bankhead District office is open to the public Monday- Friday from 7:30 am - 4:00 pm to sell maps, recreation passes, issue special use and firewood permits

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