

Unaka Mountain Recreation Zone



Nolichucky-Unaka Ranger Station



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Tall mountain peaks ranging from 3,100 to 5,200 feet dominate the landscape of the Unaka Mountain Recreation Zone.

Hike the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (A.T.), take a scenic drive, or raft the Nolichucky River for intimate views of the zone's tall mountains, high elevation balds and scenic waters. Unaka Mountain Wilderness and Scenic Area and Stone Mountain roadless area form nearly 11,000 acres of remote backcountry. Backcountry trails and the Nolichucky State Scenic River provide opportunities for an outdoor adventure experience.

The nearest communities include Erwin, Limestone Cove and Unicoi, TN with access along major routes including I-26, US 19E and 19W, TN 81 and 107.

Picnic in the Woods! Picnicking at Chestoa Recreation Area is coupled with a boat put-in/take-out along Nolichucky river. Historic Rock Creek Recreation Area near Erwin includes picnic facilities, a natural swimming pool, playground, trails and CCC-constructed bathhouse. Limestone Cove along North Indian Creek offers picnicking, an interpretive trail, abundant wildflowers and trout fishing opportunities. The Laurels offers picnic sites and two pavilions, available on first come-first served basis or by reservation.

Study the Past! This area is rich with Civilian Conservation Corps history. Companies 1455, 1457 and 1472 were stationed at Camp Cordell Hull off TN 107 near Unicoi. CCC crewmen constructed the picnic grounds at Rock Creek and The Laurels as well as Unaka Mountain Road. The pavilions at The Laurels and bathhouse at Rock Creek Recreation Area commemorate their skill and hard work.

Follow the Trail! Explore the exceptionally scenic and remote Blueway Trail on Nolichucky River between Poplar, NC and Chestoa Recreation Area. Local outfitters provide transportation and guided tours. Several high elevation mountain balds along the crests of the Bald and Unaka Mountain ranges provide spectacular views from the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (A.T.) that spans 42 miles through this vicinity

Sleep under the Stars! Rock Creek Recreation Area has 27 single and five double sites, equipped with electrical hookups and sized to accommodate large RVs. There are also five walk-in tent sites. Each site is equipped with a wooden picnic table, fire ring and lantern post. The campground offers drinking water, showers, flush toilets, dump station, and opportunities to hike, swim and romp on playground equipment.

