



Great Escapes

Alabama

Talladega National Forest

Shoal Creek District

1. Pinhoti National Trail

The trail offers more than 100 miles of moderate to difficult hiking, winding through the Talladega National Forest in eastern Alabama. It runs from Piedmont, to a point south of Talladega. Side trails include the Cheaha Wilderness and Cheaha State Park. The Pinhoti meanders through mountains and valleys, rugged pine and hardwood forests, runs along ridge tops and passes through shady hollows and mountain streams.



2. Coleman Lake Recreation Area

The recreation area, peacefully nestled into the Talladega Mountains, has 39 campsites with water and electrical hookups, bathhouses, a sandy beach, 29 picnicking units, a 21-acre lake and access to the Pinhoti Trail. Two new comfort stations and seven camping sites are fully accessible for the physically challenged. Most sites will accommodate recreational vehicles up to 35 feet in length. A picnic shelter that seats 40 is available on first-come, first-served basis; or it can reserved for \$15.

3. Lakes

- **High Rock Lake:** A small 19-acre lake about one mile south of Pine Glen Recreation Area that's open year round and offers bass, bream, and catfish for the avid angler.
- **Hillabee Lake:** A fishing lake located off County Road 24 near Abel Gap.
- **Morgan Lake:** A 14-acre lake nestled in a narrow southern valley that has parking for 15 vehicles and trailers available and offers bass, bream, and catfish for the avid angler.
- **Sweetwater Lake:** A 58-acre lake located along the Pinhoti trail that has a boat ramp and parking for eight vehicles and trailers.

4. Big Oak Physically Disabled Hunting Camp

The camp is a 1700-acre hunting unit for physically disabled hunters. State permits are required. It's located in Choccolocco Wildlife Management Area, and is the best-suited area for disabled hunters visiting the Talladega National Forest. Big Oak Hunting Camp has sanitary facilities.



5. Talladega Scenic Route

Explore 29 miles of scenic national forest by automobile, winding along the backbone of the southern Appalachian Mountains. The drive offers spectacular views of the Talladega National Forest. It follows State Route 281 near Heflin, climbs to an elevation of 2,407 feet at Alabama's highest point, Cheaha Mountain and ends at Adams Gap.

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6. Warden Station Horse Camp

With access to 30 miles of scenic trail, its central location is convenient for hunters and horseback riders. Nearby attractions include the Choccolocco Wildlife Management Area and four loop trails for hiking and picnicking. The horse camp has 45 primitive campsites for small recreation vehicles and tents. The area for primitive camping is near Coleman Lake Recreation Area. Mountain biking is also available.



7. Pine Glen Recreation Area

There are 31 campsites, cooking grills, sanitary facilities, fishing, hiking and access to the Pinhoti Trail. Use of Pine Glen Recreation Area is on a first-come, first-served basis. It's a favorite with hunters because it is centrally located in the Choccolocco Wildlife Management Area.

8. Trail Shelters

- **Blue Mountain Trail Shelter:** Can be accessed by hiking the Pinhoti trail on Blue Mountain.
- **Laurel Trail Shelter:** Can be accessed by hiking the Pinhoti Trail north of Coleman Lake. It's the first trail shelter for the Pinhoti National Recreation Trail and has water access.
- **Lower Shoal Trail Shelter:** Can be accessed by hiking east of Forest Service Road 531. It's the second trail shelter for Pinhoti National Recreation Trail.

9. Henry Creek Shooting Range

This ten-person capacity firearm range is for rifles at 50 and 100 yards and handguns at 25 yards.

10. District Office

The Shoal Creek Ranger District Office is open to the public on Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. to sell maps, recreation passes and issue special use and firewood permits.

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