



Great Escapes

Alabama

William B. Bankhead National Forest

1. William B. Bankhead National Forest Waterfalls



Nicknamed the “Land of a Thousand Waterfalls”. Most trails to well-known waterfalls are not maintained as official trails. Your safety is your responsibility; many waterfalls are in remote areas. Be aware of your surroundings, watch your step, and look for dangers as you explore. Enjoy your national forest by following “Tread Lightly” and “Leave No Trace” principles. You can obtain trail maps at the Bankhead Ranger Station or call 205-489-5111.

2. Owl Creek Non-Motorized Trail System

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

3. Sipsey Wilderness and Sipsey River Picnic Area and Trailhead

Sipsey Wilderness: This 25,770-acre wilderness area is a remote area of the forest. A 55-mile trail system provides the only access into the heart of these wildlands. Many natural wonders are within the Sipsey Wilderness. There are no facilities in the Sipsey Wilderness and there is limited parking access at trailheads, plan ahead and be prepared for changing weather conditions, inform others of your travel plans, take a compass, map, and GPS during your exploration. Enjoy the Sipsey as you practice “Leave No Trace”.



4. Natural Bridge Picnic Area

This picnic site is the oldest national forest recreation site in Alabama. Enjoy picnic tables and 3/8 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 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>



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Southern Region

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6. Hurricane Creek Shooting Range

The shooting range is open to firearm users for target practice for hunting or to improve skills for gun training. 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

This 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 Multiple-Use Trail

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 facilities for individual and group camping, picnicking, swimming and boat launching. 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 <https://www.recreation.gov>



10. Brushy Lake Recreation Area

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

11. District Office Visits

The William B. Bankhead National Forest District Office is open to the public on Monday - Friday from 7:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. to sell maps, recreation passes and issue special use and firewood permits.

1070 Highway 33 North
Double Springs, AL 35553

205-489-5111

Email: pa_alabama@fs.fed.us

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