



Great Escapes

Alabama



Conecuh National Forest

“In the Heart of Longleaf Country”



1. Open Pond Recreation Area

Open Pond is the largest recreation area on the Conecuh National Forest. With 450 acres, the site offers developed camping, picnicking, hiking, fishing, and boating, and can serve as a base camp for your exploration of the Forest. The “pond” covers 30 acres and is managed for quality fishing. Boats with electric motors or paddles are welcome here. The day use area provides visitors provides for picnicking under an historical Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) pavilion.

2. Blue Lake Recreation Area

Enjoy a swim in the crystal-clear water of Blue Lake, a natural lake fed by groundwater. It is a short 10-minute drive from Open Pond Recreation Area. Picnic sites and restrooms are available. Fishing is allowed and a boat ramp provides access to the lake for boats with electric motors or paddles.

3. Conecuh Trail

The Conecuh Trail is a 20-mile easy to moderate hiking trail that visitors can enjoy all year. Hikers traverse open fire-maintained longleaf pine forests in the uplands, and dark wet swamps and bays in the bottoms. Cypress ponds are especially scenic. Approximately 10 miles are open to mountain biking. Primitive camping along the trail is allowed with some restrictions during deer hunting season.



4. Conecuh Shooting Range

This shooting range is open to firearm users for practicing skills at distances of 25, 50 and 100 yards. Accessible shooting stations, parking and sidewalks to target areas are available for the disabled. A valid Alabama Hunting License, Wildlife Management Area License, or Heritage License is required to use the range.

5. Blue Spring Wildlife Management Area

The 23,000-acre Blue Spring Wildlife Management Area is available to avid hunters. Special hunting regulations and extra effort at habitat management is designed to enhance game species such as deer, turkey, and squirrel for the hunting public.

6. Leon Brooks Hines Public Fishing Lake

This state-managed 184-acre lake is open to anglers and contains bass, bream, and catfish. Boat launch, boat rental and bait shop are available. An Alabama fishing license and daily fee are required. Contact the Lake Manager for open dates, (251) 809-0068.

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Forest Service
Southern Region

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7. Shiloh Hill Physically Disabled Hunting Area

This area was established in 2008 to provide disabled hunters an opportunity to enjoy hunting. The area can be reserved through the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Visit

<http://www.outdooralabama.com/physically-disabled-hunting-and-fishing-trail>



8. Bogs

The Conecuh is known for its high-quality examples of coastal plain seepage bogs, often referred to as “pitcher plant bogs.” These sites support a variety of carnivorous plants, including several species of attractive pitcher plants. **Parker Springs Bog** is an excellent example on the west side of the Forest; **Crawford Bog** is a prime example on the east side.



9. Ponds

Buck and Ditch Ponds are natural sinkhole ponds in close proximity to Open Pond Recreation Area. They are managed for public fishing and provide easy access to the Conecuh Trail.

Sinkhole Ponds are a special natural habit scattered across the forest. These ponds provide opportunity to observe unusual wetland plants and animals, including many frogs, snakes, and salamanders. The Forest is a national hotspot for reptile and amphibian.



10. District Office Visits

The Conecuh National Forest District Office is open to the public Monday - Friday from 7:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., except for federal holidays, to provide forest information, sell maps, recreation passes and issue permits.

24481 Alabama Hwy 55
Andalusia, AL 36420



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