Great Escapes
100 Places to Visit in the National Forests of Alabama

Alabamas national forests are among the state’s most valuable natural resources. They encompass more than 885,000 acres of publicly owned land located in 17 counties. The Bankhead, Talladega, and Tuskegee national forests reflect the diverse geography of the state, ranging from the Southern Appalachian Mountains, Cumberland Plateau and Piedmont, to the Coastal Plain. Alabama’s national forests date back to the early 1900s and are counted among the 191 national forests, national grasslands and land utilization projects that total 186 million acres across 44 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The Forest Service manages Alabama’s national forests for multiple uses including recreation, wilderness, timber, wildlife, fish, water and soil. Visitors will notice the diverse landscape that is home to various species of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, insects, fish, plants and trees.

The Bankhead, Talladega, Tuskegee and Conecuh national forests are great places for those who enjoy the outdoors. Approximately 1.4 million visits to numerous recreation sites take place annually throughout Alabama’s national forests. Many people are taking time to enjoy outdoor activities like fishing, hunting, horseback riding, swimming, boating, camping, picnicking, mountain biking and hunting.

Take a look at the top 100 places to visit in the National Forests of Alabama. For day trips or overnight camping, this guide can help plan your next outdoor adventure.

1. Black Warrior Wildlife Management Area

2. Bankhead Creek Trailhead, Sipsey Wilderness

3. Bankhead Creek Trailhead, Sipsey Wilderness

4. Clay Creek Trailhead

5. Oakleaf Mountain Road

6. Clear Creek Recreation Area

7. Corinth Recreation Area

8. Fletch Creek Botanical Area

9. Fletch Creek Campground

10. Fletch Creek Campground

11. Historic Cowpen

12. Historic Cowpen

13. Bridle Trail

14. Bridle Trail

15. bridal Trail


17. Forests of Alabama.

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100. Forests of Alabama.
65. Lake Wells
Lake Wells is a 115-acre, nestled in a narrow southern Appalachian Valley about 4 miles east of Talladega, etnology of local flora and fauna. This lake is a popular spot for bass, bluegill, and crappie. Nearby, natural and artificial baits may be used. A boat ramp and fish cleaning station are available. Small boats with manual or electric power only are permitted on the lake.

50. Longleaf Pine
The Longleaf Pine is a long-lived, slow-growing evergreen forest type that features a low, dense canopy. This tree is native to the southeastern United States and is an important element of savanna and forest ecosystems. The Longleaf Pine is also a host plant for the monarch butterfly. To protect this species, Congress has designated the Longleaf Pines as a National Wildlife Refuge.

28. Oakmulgee Ranger District
Located in the Oakmulgee National Forest, this ranger district supports a wide variety of wildlife species, including white-tailed deer, turkey, and black bears. The district also offers excellent opportunities for recreational activities, such as hiking, fishing, and hunting.

26. Pinhoti National Recreation Trail
This 26-mile trail is a popular destination for hikers and equestrians. The trail offers beautiful views of the surrounding landscape and is located within the Sipsey Wilderness Area. The Pinhoti Trail is a classic example of a through-hiking trail, allowing hikers to explore the extensive range of ecosystems found in the southeastern United States.

25. Talladega National Forest
This 1,500,000-acre forest is one of the largest in the eastern United States. The forest is home to a diverse array of wildlife species, including white-tailed deer, turkey, black bears, and bobcats. The forest also offers opportunities for outdoor recreation, such as hiking, fishing, and hunting.

23. Talladega Ranger District
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