



# Alabama's National Forests Great Escapes

## Talladega National Forest "Alabama's Largest National Forest"

Forest Service Southern Region / National Forests in Alabama  
Informational Handout 0002 / Shoal Creek Ranger District (256) 463-2272  
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[www.fs.usda.gov/alabama](http://www.fs.usda.gov/alabama)

### 1. Pinhoti National Trail

Prepare yourself for a remarkable journey in the Talladega National Forest in eastern Alabama! With over 100 miles of trails ranging from easy to challenging, you can traverse the meandering Pinhoti Trail, which stretches from Piedmont to south of Talladega. As you go, you'll pass through mountains, valleys, dense pine forests, and hardwood forests, along ridge tops, and through shallow hollows and mountain streams.

### 2. Coleman Lake Recreation Area

Get away from it all in the Talladega Mountains! This recreation area is the perfect place to relax and unwind. With 39 campsites featuring water and electrical hookups, bathhouses, a sandy beach, 29 picnicking units, and an 821-acre lake, you'll never run out of things to do. Plus, two new comfort stations and seven camping sites are fully accessible for the physically challenged. Most sites can accommodate recreational vehicles up to 35 feet in length. And if you're looking for a place to picnic, the shelter that seats 40 is available on a first-come, first-served basis or for just \$15.

### 3. Lakes

High Rock Lake: A small 19-acre lake about one mile South of Pine Glen recreation area is open year-round and offers bass, bream, and catfish for the avid angler.

Hillabee Lake: the fishing lake located off County Road 24 near Able 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 50-acre lake along the Pinhoti Trail with a boat ramp and parking for 8 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 is in the Choccolocco Wildlife Management Area and is best suited for disabled hunters visiting the Talladega National Forest. Big Oak Hunting Camp has sanitary facilities.

### 5. Talladega Scenic Route

Cruise along the 29-mile stretch of the Talladega National Forest, situated in the southern Appalachian Mountains. State route 281 near Heflin will take you to the peak of Cheaha Mountain, the highest point in Alabama at 2,407 feet, before ending at Adam's Gap.

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## 6. Warden Station Horse Camp

With access to 30 miles of scenic trails, its central location is convenient for hunters and horseback riders. Nearby attractions include the Choccolocco Wildlife Management Area and 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 of its central location 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

The 10-person capacity firearm range is for rifles at 50 and 100 yards and handguns at 25 yards.

## District Office

The Shoal Creek Ranger District Office is open to the public Monday - Friday from 7:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. to sell maps and recreation passes and issue special use and firewood permits.

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