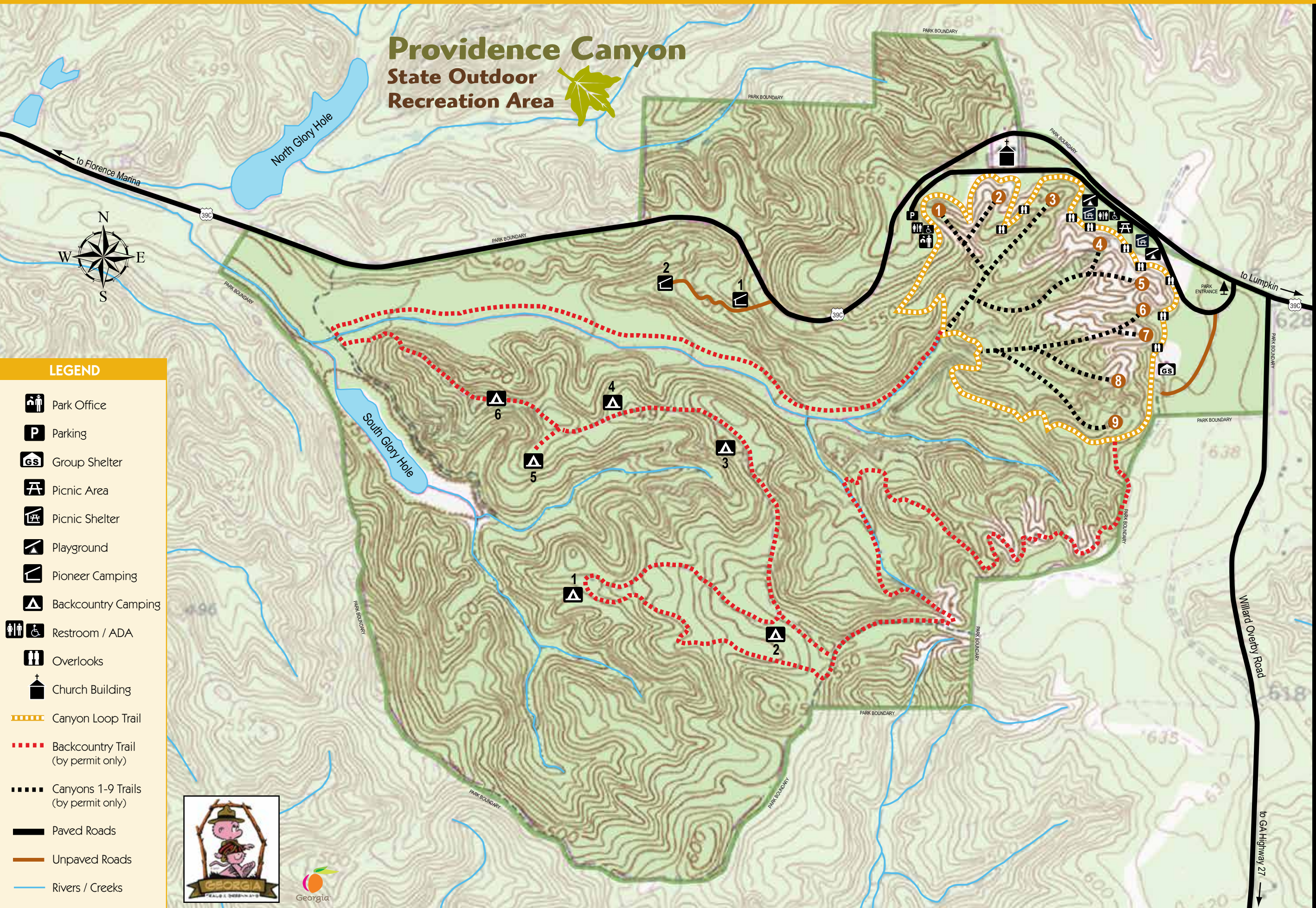


Providence Canyon State Park Trail Map

Route 1, Box 158 • Lumpkin, GA 31815 • 929-838-6292 • Emergency: 911 • www.GeorgiaStateParks.org



LEGEND

-  Park Office
-  Parking
-  Group Shelter
-  Picnic Area
-  Picnic Shelter
-  Playground
-  Pioneer Camping
-  Backcountry Camping
-  Restroom / ADA
-  Overlooks
-  Church Building
-  Canyon Loop Trail
-  Backcountry Trail (by permit only)
-  Canyons 1-9 Trails (by permit only)
-  Paved Roads
-  Unpaved Roads
-  Rivers / Creeks



PROVIDENCE CANYON STATE PARK

Providence Canyon State Park was established in 1971 to preserve the unique scenic beauty of "Georgia's Little Grand Canyon." Due to poor farming practices by early settlers, the soft soil began washing away in the early 1800s when trees were cleared to plant crops. By 1850, ditches three- to five-feet-deep had been cut into the land. Today some of them are as deep as 150 feet. The water gradually cut through the erosion-resistant upper layer of the Clayton Formation exposing the colorful sandy soil known as the Providence Sands and the lower, dark gray layer is known as the Perote Member. Beneath the Providence Formation is the Ripley Formation, the ancient sea floor, a very erosion-resistant clay-like soil that slows the erosion process to a hardly measurable rate, while the sides of the canyon continue to wash downstream.

Today, the park covers 1,108 acres with 16 canyons. The most scenic views are found in the picnic area, where visitors can pick up the Rim Trail. Some 43 shades of soil can be seen, and the splendor of the colors -- ranging from light orange, salmon, red and scarlet to white, purple and pink -- is a sight worth seeing. Additionally, beautiful wildflowers grow in the canyons, including the rare Plumleaf Azalea which blooms July to September while growing close to the watercourses far below the canyon ridge.

ACTIVITIES & FACILITIES:

Hiking - The park has three miles of hiking trails, which includes the Canyon Loop Trail. There is also a 7-mile backpacking trail providing access to overnight camping areas.

Visitor Center - The center is open 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily and includes exhibits, audio-visual presentations and information on the area.

Camping - Two pioneer camping areas are provided for organized groups only. Backpackers may use the six primitive sites found on the Red Blaze Trail (permits required). A modern campground with hot showers is located nearby at Florence Marina State Park in Omaha, Ga. (229-838-6870)

Picnicking - The park offers 65 picnic tables and two picnic shelters. Shelters are reservable and are available on a first-come, first-served basis at other times. A group shelter that accommodates 100 people may be reserved for a small fee. The shelter has tables, chairs, a grill, stove and refrigerator.

Annual Events - Spring/Fall Wildflower Days, Astronomy Night, Poster and Photography Contests, Geology Days and Christmas Decorations Workshop.

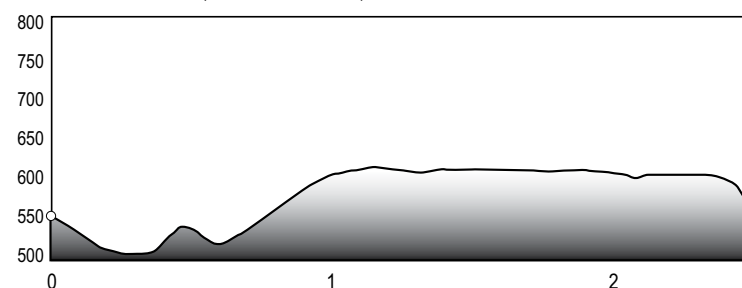
TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS AND PARK INFORMATION



TRAILS TO HIKE CANYONS 1-9

All trails begin and end at the visitor center. To hike canyons 1-5, turn left at the first creek bed on the white blaze trail, and canyons 6-9 by turning left at the second creek bed.

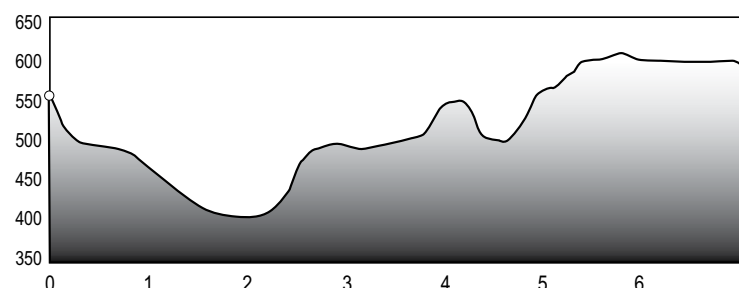
CANYON LOOP (WHITE BLAZE) TRAIL



Canyon Loop Trail - 2.45 miles
2 hours (allow extra time to explore)
Compacted Soil Surface
EASY TO MODERATE

The White Blaze Canyon Loop Trail circles nine of the canyons. To hike canyons 1-5 from the Visitor Center, hike ¼ of a mile down to the creek bed, and turn left, following the creek bed into the canyons. Hikers may reach canyons 6-9 by turning left into the second creek further down the Canyon Loop Trail. After arriving at the end of each canyon, backtrack out to return to the trail. Turn right on the Canyon Loop Trail to return to the Visitor Center, or turn left on the trail to continue the loop. While hiking through the day-use area, follow the fence line for the best overlooks. The soils are very fragile on the canyon walls, so no climbing is allowed from the canyon floor or rim. While hiking into the canyons, it is best to stay in the middle of the creek beds, because the soils on the side can be very muddy, similar to quicksand. The canyon floors are prone to be wet or muddy, so wear appropriate footwear.

BACKCOUNTRY (RED BLAZE) TRAIL



7-mile loop / 6 hours (hiking and camping by permit only)
Compacted Soil Surface
EXTREMELY RUGGED & DIFFICULT

The 7-mile Backcountry Trail leads into the forested area off of the White Blaze Canyon Loop Trail. The beginning of it is ¼ of a mile down the Loop Trail at the creek bed itself. Instead of turning left into the canyons, turn right on the creek bed. This is the beginning of the Backcountry Trail, which winds through some River Birch. After about two miles, it becomes rugged, ascending a steep grade. It follows an old logging road, where most of the primitive campsites are located. At site #2, a shortcut is available which will shorten the trail about ¾ of a mile. Further down the trail, as the trail becomes rugged again, six canyons may be viewed, but they are not accessible to the hikers. The Backcountry Trail will dead-end into the Loop Trail, where hikers will turn right. This will continue through the day use area. Follow the fence line through the picnic area for the best overlooks, returning to the Visitor Center.

SAFETY TIPS & ETIQUETTE

- Climbing on the canyon walls from the floor of the canyons is prohibited.
- Climbing on or over the fence line is very dangerous and is not allowed.
- The canyon floors are always wet. Wear waterproof boots to protect your feet.
- Tell someone your itinerary and expected return time.
- Take a map, water, snacks, first aid kit, flashlight and whistle. Three short blasts on a whistle are known as a call for help.
- Do not stray from trails. If you become lost, stay in one location and wait for help. This will make it easier for rescuers to find you.
- Don't count on cell phones to work in the wilderness, but if they do, be able to give details about your location.
- Invest in good hiking socks such as those found at sporting goods stores. Avoid blisters by carrying "moleskin" and applying it as soon as you feel hot spots on your feet. Available in the foot care section of drug stores, moleskin is like felt that sticks to your skin.
- Be prepared for unexpected rain and wind which can lead to hypothermia. Always carry quality rain gear and turn back in bad weather. If you become wet or cold, it is important to get dry and warm as quickly as possible.
- To minimize the chance of getting heat exhaustion or heat stroke, drink plenty of fluids, wear lightweight clothing and take rests before you get too hot.
- Dress in layers and avoid cotton. Choose from numerous fabrics that wicks moisture, dry quickly and conserve heat. Wear a lightweight shirt that wicks moisture, while carrying a fleece pullover and rain jacket.
- Pack out all trash.
- Keep pets on a leash at all times and clean up after them.
- Do not pick flowers, disturb wildlife or take anything off the park.
- Protect the park and help prevent erosion by staying on marked trails.
- The trails close at 5:30 p.m. from September 15 through April 14. They close 30 minutes before sunset during the rest of the year.
- Day hikers on the 7-mile Backcountry Trail must begin their hike no later than 2:00 p.m.; overnight hikers must begin their hike by 4:00 p.m.

CLIMATE DATA FOR LUMPKIN, GEORGIA

Month	Avg. High	Avg. Low	Mean	Avg. Precip.	Record High	Record Low
Jan	56°F	33°F	44°F	5.31 in	85°F (1985)	-4°F (1985)
Feb	61°F	34°F	48°F	4.73 in	85°F (2005)	5°F (1996)
Mar	67°F	40°F	54°F	5.75 in	90°F (1982)	13°F (1980)
Apr	75°F	47°F	61°F	3.81 in	92°F (1987)	26°F (1987)
May	81°F	56°F	69°F	3.23 in	99°F (1979)	34°F (1997)
Jun	86°F	64°F	75°F	3.97 in	105°F (1978)	40°F (1999)
Jul	89°F	67°F	78°F	5.36 in	104°F (1980)	52°F (1967)
Aug	89°F	67°F	78°F	3.64 in	105°F (1980)	52°F (1997)
Sep	85°F	62°F	74°F	3.16 in	100°F (1980)	31°F (1967)
Oct	76°F	50°F	63°F	2.48 in	93°F (2002)	27°F (1981)
Nov	68°F	41°F	54°F	3.75 in	89°F (2004)	16°F (1969)
Dec	58°F	35°F	47°F	4.05 in	81°F (1984)	-1°F (1983)