Black Rock Mountain State Park

TRAIL SAFETY & ETIQUETTE
- Tell someone your itinerary and expected return time.
- Be prepared for unexpected weather changes by dressing in layers and carrying rain gear. Unexpected rain and wind 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.
- Dress in layers and avoid cotton. Luckily, today’s hikers can choose from numerous fabrics that wick moisture, dry quickly or conserve heat. Many experienced hikers wear a lightweight shirt that wicks moisture, while carrying a fleece pullover and rain jacket.
- Take a map, water, snack, 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 boots such as those found at sporting goods stores. Avoid blisters by carrying “moleskin” and applying it as soon as you feel a hot spot on your feet. Available in the foot care section of drug stores, moleskin is like felt that sticks to your skin.
- Pack out all trash.
- Do not pick flowers or disturb wildlife.
- Protect the landscape by staying on trails. Do not cut short switchbacks. This practice is dangerous and can create major erosion problem.
- Stay together. Don’t allow hikers, especially children, to run ahead or lag behind.

CLIMATE DATA FOR BLACK ROCK MOUNTAIN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>High</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Precip.</th>
<th>Record High</th>
<th>Record Low</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>64ºF</td>
<td>30ºF</td>
<td>37ºF</td>
<td>6.41 in</td>
<td>68ºF (2002)</td>
<td>-20ºF (1985)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>54ºF</td>
<td>37ºF</td>
<td>45ºF</td>
<td>7.00 in</td>
<td>70ºF (1996)</td>
<td>3ºF (1996)</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>70ºF</td>
<td>52ºF</td>
<td>61ºF</td>
<td>4.95 in</td>
<td>87ºF (1992)</td>
<td>46ºF (1992)</td>
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<td>Jul</td>
<td>87ºF</td>
<td>67ºF</td>
<td>77ºF</td>
<td>8.39 in</td>
<td>89ºF (1993)</td>
<td>46ºF (1979)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep</td>
<td>70ºF</td>
<td>57ºF</td>
<td>63ºF</td>
<td>6.50 in</td>
<td>86ºF (2011)</td>
<td>35ºF (1990)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>53ºF</td>
<td>39ºF</td>
<td>46ºF</td>
<td>5.91 in</td>
<td>85ºF (1979)</td>
<td>8ºF (1981)</td>
</tr>
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The loop around scenic Black Rock Lake, completed in 2007, is a wonderful addition to the park’s trail system. The 17-acre lake is supplied by development and is rimmed by forests of white pine and yellow poplar. The gently rolling, 8.5-mile loop is rated “easy” and is perfectly suited for beginners. Wooden bridges cross Taylor Creek and Greasy Creek, the two cascading streams that feed Black Rock Lake, and an 80-foot bridge spans Cricket Cove on the lake’s southwest corner. A wheelchair-accessible pier adjacent Turtle Rock and a 160-foot wooden boardwalk allow anglers a chance to fish for bass, catfish, yellow perch, and trout. In addition, several tables along shady Taylor Creek offer the perfect location for a picnic-side creek.

James E. Edmonds Trail (Backcountry)

- 7.2-Mile Loop
- Avg. Travel Time: 4 Hours
- Foot Travel Only

Composed Natural Soil Surface
- Avg. Grade: 5% Max: 15%/200LF
- Avg. X-slope: 10% Max: 30%/500LF
- Backcountry Camping by Permit Only
- Compacted natural soil on four designated campsites. See map for locations. Advance reservations required. Call 1-800-864-7275.

The 7.2-mile James E. Edmonds Backcountry Trail, named in honor of one of the park’s first rangers, offers both day hiking and backcountry camping. This trail is quite steep in a number of places and is rated as “moderate to strenuous.” In laurel-filled coves, the trail follows cascading streams with small waterfalls. In the northernmost section of the park, the trail climbs to the summit of Lookoff Mountain and offers a stunning vista of Wolfork Valley and surrounding mountain ranges.

Black Rock Lake Trail

- 8.5-Mile Loop
- Avg. Travel Time: Half Hour
- Foot Travel Only

Composed Natural Soil Surface / Gravel / Bark
- Avg. Grade: 5% Max: 10%
- Min. Width: 60 inches

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Adha-ki Falls Trail

- .25-Mile Loop
- Avg. Travel Time: Half Hour
- Foot Travel Only

Compacted Natural Soil Surface
- Avg. Grade: 5% Max: 10%/500LF
- Min. Width: 36 inches
- Avg. X-slope: 10% Max: 10%/500LF

The Adha-ki Falls Trail provides a delightful but challenging walk into an outstanding example of a most, north-slope Appalachian cove. The trail features mature hardwoods, lichen-covered rocks, a variety of ferns and wildflowers, and a dense thicket of rhododendron. At the trail’s end is the observation platform for noisy Adha-ki Falls, a small cascade typical of those found at the higher elevations throughout the Blue Ridge Mountains.

NOTE: During dry weather, water flow is often reduced to a trickle.

Norma Campbell Cove Trail

- .10-Mile Loop
- Avg. Travel Time: Half Hour
- Foot Travel Only

Compacted Natural Soil Surface
Moderate rating of difficulty.

This is the park’s newest trail which is named after the late Norma Campbell, a popular park naturalist who first proposed the development of the Marie Mellinger Center. The tenth-of-a-mile scenic trail begins at the Center on the southern edge of the Eastern Continental Divide and descends into the upper reaches of a densely-wooded, south-facing cove. Hikers pan by huge rock outcrops framed by ferns, mayapple and trillium and will see gurgling springs that flow down the cove into Stekos Creek, one of the principal tributaries of the federally-designated “wild and scenic” Chattooga River. Several log benches allow hikers to relax in the shade and enjoy this lush Appalachian hollow.

Black Rock Mountain (Summit Elevation: 3640 ft.)

Tennessee Rock Trail

- 2.2-Mile Loop
- Avg. Travel Time: One and a Half Hour
- Foot Travel Only

Compacted Natural Soil Surface
- Avg. Grade: 10% Max: 25%/200LF
- Min. Width: 18 inches
- Avg. X-slope: 10% Max: 25%/500LF

The yellow-blazed 2.2-mile Tennessee Rock Trail, winding its way through some of the highest and luxuriant forests, is the park’s most popular hiking trail. Rated by experienced hikers as “easy to moderate,” the trail offers most visitors a perfect opportunity to get better acquainted with the area’s rich woodlands and vistas, that on clear days span over 80 miles into the neighboring states of both North and South Carolina, as well as Tennessee.

The effects from an EF-2 tornado are clearly visible on the trail’s western edge, as hikers begin the climb to Black Rock Mountain’s summit. While the damage to the forest is saddening to an extent, downed trees have enhanced vistas at several points along the trail and opened the thick woods for new growth.

Tennessee Rock Trail Interpretive Information

Hikers wanting to learn more about the specific forest ecology of the Southern Appalachian Mountains may wish to purchase a copy of “An Interpretive Guide to the Tennessee Rock Trail,” available for a small fee at the visitor center and campground trading post. The text in this 32-page illustrated booklet corresponds to 25 numbered posts located along the trail. In addition to information about the park’s natural history, the trail guide features interesting facts about early pioneer and North American life, as well as fascinating information about Appalachian geology, geography and climate. The guide serves as an excellent introduction to Black Rock Mountain State Park and the surrounding mountain region.

Hikers using the guide will quickly learn that there’s a lot more to be found along the trail than just trees. For instance, hikers will discover an Appalachian bald, an actual remnant of the great ice age which ended more than 10,000 years ago. Hikers will also walk a quarter-mile area along the Blue Ridge Mountain backbone, following the Eastern Continental Divide. This great ridge separates rainfall flowing eastward near the Savannah River and the Atlantic Ocean from rainfall flowing westward toward the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico. And when the weather is clear, hikers on the Tennessee Rock Trail can see Georgia’s Brasstown Bald and Chimney Rock in the same.