

DISCOVER A TRAIL

TRAIL NAME	TRAIL LENGTH
Pine Gap -----	1.00 mile
Bynum Bluff-----	1.00 mile
Cabin -----	0.75 mile
* Babel Tower -----	1.30 miles
Conley Cove-----	1.35 miles
Pinch-In -----	1.50 miles
* Spence Ridge-----	1.75 miles
Devil's Hole -----	1.50 miles
* Jonas Ridge-----	2.40 miles
* Little Table Rock-----	1.10 miles
* Table Rock Gap -----	1.20 miles
Chimbric Ridge -----	1.30 miles
* Brushy Ridge-----	2.00 miles
* Shortoff-----	8.00 miles
Rock Jock -----	2.80 miles
* Table Rock-----	1.20 miles

* Primitive trails with very strenuous hiking.

Pine Gap to Conley Cove-----	5.00 miles
Table Rock to Shortoff-----	4.50 miles
Table Rock to Spence Ridge -----	2.00 miles
Table Rock Picnic Area to top of Table Rock-----	1.20 miles
Table Rock to Chimneys-----	1.25 miles
Mountains-to-Sea Trail (Pinnacle-Shortoff-Table Rock) -----	11.00 miles

NOTE: Trails are signed at trailheads but are not signed or blazed once inside the wilderness. You should be able to read a topographical map and use a compass. You can purchase topo and other maps from the Grandfather District Office (phone and address listed inside).

NOTE: A bridge crosses Linville River at Spence Ridge Trail.

NO-TRACE CAMPING

Visitors are asked to minimize impact to the wilderness and follow these rules.

- Avoid holidays and weekends.
- Avoid popular and overused areas.
- Never cut standing trees or damage and pick plants or wildflowers.
- Pick up all litter. Pack out all garbage.
- Avoid campsites that are overcamped.
- Use existing fire rings. Better yet, use a back-packer stove for cooking.
- If you must have a fire, create a shallow depression on mineral soil for the fire and keep it small. Make sure the fire is dead out before leaving.
- Destroy evidence of the fire. Replace and scatter twigs and leaves cleared for fire or sleeping.
- Bury human waste six inches deep and at least 100 feet from water.



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LINVILLE GORGE WILDERNESS



Linville Gorge Wilderness, covering over 12,000 acres, is laced with trails that wind through thickets of mountain laurel and descend to the depths of Linville Gorge—one of the most rugged and scenic gorges in the East. From the gorge's rim, you get an awesome view of the Linville River 2,000 feet below.



**U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Southern Region**

WHERE DID THE GORGE GET ITS NAME?

The area is named after explorer William Linville. Linville and his sons were scalped by Indians in 1766 in the gorge.

LINVILLE GORGE OFFERS HIKING, ROCK CLIMBING

Formed by Linville Mountain on the west and Jonas Ridge on the east, the gorge sits east of Mount Mitchell. Linville Gorge’s unique assortment of rock formations on Jonas Ridge include Sitting Bear, Hawksbill, Table Rock and the Chimneys.



These features are ideal for hiking, backpacking and rock climbing. The area includes 39 miles of trails, offering experienced hikers a wonderful excursion. Some trails are quite steep and meander through dense forest, so novice hikers can get easily disorientated. Several rock formations along Jonas Ridge offer a challenge for qualified rock climbers experienced in safe climbing techniques.

For a more solitary visit, explore the southern portion of the gorge, south of the Conley Cove Trail in the western half and south of the Chimneys in the east. The northern portion of the gorge surrounding Brushy Ridge also receives low use and provides more solitude. In addition, the rugged terrain offers a physical challenge.

PERMITS REQUIRED

Free permits are required for camping only on weekends and holidays from May 1-Oct. 31. Permits are not required Nov. 1-April 30 or for visitors who do not stay overnight.

Reservations are taken on a first-come, first-serve basis, beginning the first working day of each previous month. For example, reservations for wilderness camping permits for June are accepted starting the first working day of May.

LENGTH OF STAY: Each visitor or group may get one weekend permit per month and may stay for up to three consecutive days and two nights.

GROUP SIZE: Cannot exceed 10.

Violators of the above laws are subject to a fine of not more than \$5,000 or imprisonment of not more than six months or both.

FOR PERMITS & MAPS

Grandfather Ranger District
109 East Lawing Drive
Nebo, NC 28761
(828) 652-4841/2144
(located off I-40, Exit 90, Nebo/Lake James Exit)

INFORMATION CABIN

Open from April to October, Thursday through Saturday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m, this cabin sells maps and other items. This cabin is on NC 1238, Kistler Memorial Highway, 0.4 mile from NC 183.

WILDERNESS QUALITY

Linville Gorge became one of the East’s first designated wildernesses in 1964. The permit limitation of group size and restrictions on length of stay are efforts to maintain wilderness quality. To preserve solitude, no motorized or mechanical equipment or transportation (motorcycles, bicycles or wagons) can be used.

WILDERNESS DIRECTIONS

ACCESS TO EASTERN SECTION:

From Marion, take U.S. 221 and head north to the intersection of NC 183 at Linville Falls. Turn right on NC 183 and continue to NC 181. Turn right and go south on NC 181 and continue three miles to Forest Service Road (FR) 210 (Gingercake Road). Turn right onto FR 210. At the first fork, turn left and continue through Gingercake Acres subdivision.

The first parking area is for Devil’s Hole Trail (Sitting Bear), two miles from Gingercake Acres.

The second parking area is for Hawksbill (parking area on left and trail on right) one mile from Devil’s Hole. The third parking area is for Spence Ridge and North Table Rock trails, one mile from Hawksbill.

To reach Table Rock Picnic Area, go one mile to the first intersection and turn right. Stay on this road, bearing to the right through several switchbacks to the picnic area.

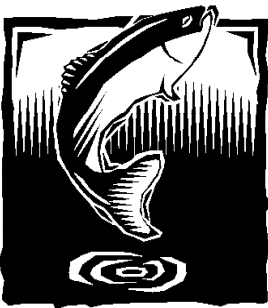
ACCESS TO WESTERN SECTION:

From Marion, take U.S. 221 north to the intersection of NC 183 at Linville Falls. Turn right on NC 183 and go one mile to NC 1238, Kistler Memorial Highway. Trailhead and parking lots accessing the western section of the gorge lead off Kistler Memorial Highway.

To access Kistler Memorial Highway from Marion, take U.S. 70 and head east to Nebo. At Nebo, take NC 126 across Lake James and continue eight miles. Turn left on NC 1238, Kistler Memorial Highway. Kistler highway is a gravel road and is very rough in places, especially for two-wheel-drive vehicles.

WILDERNESS RANGERS

During your visit to Linville Gorge, you may meet a wilderness ranger. This ranger will be glad to answer your questions about campsites, fishing, trail conditions, plant and animal life, and trail locations.



HUNTING & FISHING

Hunting and fishing are permitted under North Carolina State Wildlife Resources Commission regulations. Deer, bear, squirrel, raccoon and

ruffed grouse live here. Brown and rainbow trout are game fish found in the Linville River.

DISCOVER VARIETY OF PLANTS

Due to a range of moisture, topography, and other physical factors along the gorge walls, a great variety of plants inhabit the area. The gorge shelters stretches of virgin forest and five rare and endangered plants. Some plant communities are very fragile. Please stay on the trail to avoid trampling delicate plants.

SAFETY TIPS

- Hikers should be in good health before attempting trails. Anyone with heart or lung trouble should reconsider hiking these trails.
- Wear bright clothing and dress dogs in orange vests during hunting season.
- Treat water by boiling for 20 minutes.
- All hikers should be able to identify and closely watch for two poisonous snakes, the copperhead and timber rattler.
- Fire can be a problem during dry periods. Extinguish fires completely before leaving.
- Lock your car and carry valuables with you. Thieves can easily gain access to your car and its trunk.
- Be safe. Hike with a companion.
- Carry a map and compass.
- Let someone know where you plan to be and when you will return.
- Be prepared for cold weather. Know hypothermia’s symptoms and how to treat them.