SOUTHERN CUMBERLAND RECREATION AREA

Welcome to our park. We hope that your visit is a pleasant one with your family or friends in mind. The Southern Cumberland is one of the newer Tennessee State parks. Almost our entire park lies atop the Cumberland Plateau and, unlike most state parks, ours is made up of ten different areas located in four different counties. The visitor's center is located between Monteagle and Tracy City on Highway 41. From here the various components of the park are managed. Visitors can also obtain information and directions from the visitor's center.

SOUTH CUMBERLAND RECREATION AREA

Savage Gulf

Carried like a giant cross fox into the western edge of the Cumberland Plateau, the Savage Gulf State Natural Area is one of Tennessee's most scenic state outdoor recreation areas. At a length of five miles each, the Big Creek, Cagle Knob, and Smokey Hollow waterfalls are among 800 feet in elevation through the narrow gorge, locally known as “Gullies.” Kinned by where sandstone cliffs, the rugged canyons offer the handy visitor a time glimpse of this true wilderness that remains in our State’s midsection.

The rocks which make up the Cumberland Plateau were laid down 250 to 325 million years ago. During that warm tropical period, Alfalfa was advanced and retracted across the land, and the landscape was a profound growth of flowering forests which were later buried by advancing glacial. Today the extensive remains of these forested, from the coal veins aside the 1800 feet, the fossilized found in the park bear mute witness to the earliest animals and plants to inhabit an area like our home.

The Stone Door was used for centuries by the Indians as a passageway from the top of the escarpment into the gorge. Like a giant arch wall 80 feet tall and 100 feet deep, the spectacular cliffs offer one of the best scenic overlooks in Tennessee. Big Creek, 750 feet below the overlook, mysteriously disappear and reappear as it cuts its way through the area like a distant layer of limestone and shale. All of the larger streams flow under the entrance road and power line are crossed. A short distance upstream is an unusual misshapen Virginia Pine tree to the right.

The trail begins beside the Stone Door Ranger Station. An unusual eventually Virginia Pine tree to the right. An unusual misshapen Virginia Pine tree to the right. A shor...
USE OF SAVAGE GULF TRAILS

Hiking: Hiking is allowed on designated hiking trails only. Maintain at least 500 yard distance between parties. Enjoy yourself but remember to respect park features and the rights of other park visitors. Take pride in knowing that no one could tell you have used the trail after your visit.

If you see something on the trail that needs repair, please inform someone at the Ranger Station. Hikers MUST be off trails by dark.

Hikers should report to the Ranger Station upon arrival. If your hikers have arrived safely.

Collection of Park Plants & Animals: The collection of any plants and animals is prohibited by state law. Out-of-place fruit, observing plants, stopping other hikers from being able to view them, berries, nuts, and flowers of park plants may be picked in season.

Other Rules:

Rock Climbing & Rapelling: A permit MUST be obtained before rock climbing or rapelling and is restricted to the Stone Door area. Campers should be set up at their designated campsite by dark.

Firearms, fireworks, axes, hatchets, alcoholic beverages, and drugs are not allowed on the park area or trails. Dogs and other pets are not allowed on the park area or trails.

Fires: Fires at campsites are to be built only in established fire rings. During dry weather periods, permits may not be issued. The use of a self-contained backpack stove is encouraged. Only manned, non-discharge stoves may be used.

Sanitation: Primitive toilets are provided at designated camping areas. Primitive toilets are to be built only in established fire rings. During dry weather periods, permits may not be issued. The use of a self-contained backpack stove is encouraged. Only manned, non-discharge stoves may be used.

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Winters are usually mild. Although several inches of snow may fall at one time, it seldom lasts more than a few days. The average winter temperature is about 40°F.

MONTHLY AVERAGE CLIMATE

Summer temperatures average in the high 70°F but temperatures may reach the 100°F and remain for several days. Winters are generally cold with temperatures often falling to as low as 20°F. The average summer temperature is about 80°F.

A National Weather Service rain gauge located near the ranger station shows a rainfall of about 53 inches a year. The driest months are usually in April and May, while the wettest months are October and November.

SOUTH CUMBERLAND RECREATION AREA

Savage Gulf State Natural Area

MOUNTAIN OAK

OAK TRAIL

HOBBS CABIN

STAGE COACH ROAD

FIREPLACES

SAVAGE FALLS

Sinks

GREAT RECEPTION

SMALL RECEPTION

GREETER FALLS

SAVAGE GULF TRAILS

SOUTH CUMBERLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

17451 US-41 / Monteagle TN 37356

Phone: (931) 824-2980 or -2985

The Trailhead of the Savage Gulf State Natural Area is located off US-41 at mile marker 174.

FOOT MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

SOUTH CUMBERLAND RECREATION AREA

Savage Gulf State Natural Area

FIREPLACES

SAVAGE FALLS

Sinks

Mountain Oak .9 MO

Facility or Feature / Symbols

A Parking Area

P Ranger Station

Rainfall

Waterfall

Trail System

Spring

Hiking Trail

Historic Site

Trail Shelter

Ranger Station

NOTE: You may park at the Ranger Station or any designated trailhead parking area.

For further information, call (931) 824-2980 or -2985.

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation is committed to the principles of equal opportunity, equal access, and affirmative action. Contact the EEO/AA Coordinator of the ADA Coordinator at 1-800-868-7021 for further information. Hearing impaired callers may use the Tennessee Relay Service at (1-800-868-0280).

SOUTH CUMBERLAND RECREATION AREA

Savage Gulf State Natural Area

SAVAGE FALLS

SAVAGE RANGER STATION

SAVAGE FALLS

Sinks

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