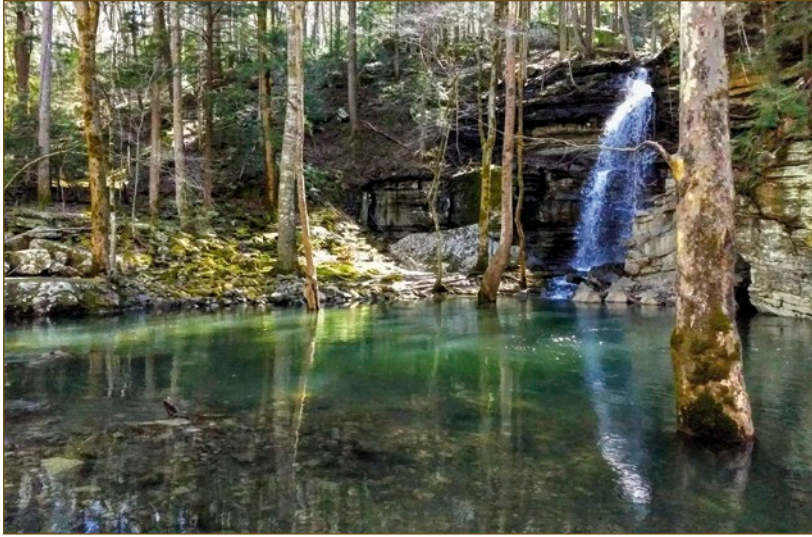
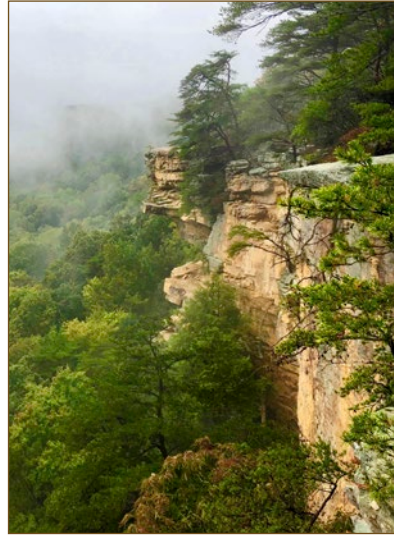


continued from reverse



Top Left: A view of the Big Creek Sink at flood stage; even then, the sink manages to swallow up all the water Big Creek sends its way.

Top Right: A foggy summer morning at the Stone Door overlook.



Above: A hiker pauses to take in Ranger Falls, unique because its full fury is consumed in a sink immediately below and to the right of the plunge. Only in the most extreme situations does the sink "overflow" and send any water over the rocks in the foreground; otherwise, this is a dry streambed.



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE PARK'S TRAIL MILEPOST SYSTEM

REPORT THE CODE ON THE NEAREST MILE MARKER TO EMERGENCY RESPONDERS WHEN YOU CALL 911. IT WILL TELL THEM EXACTLY WHERE YOU ARE!

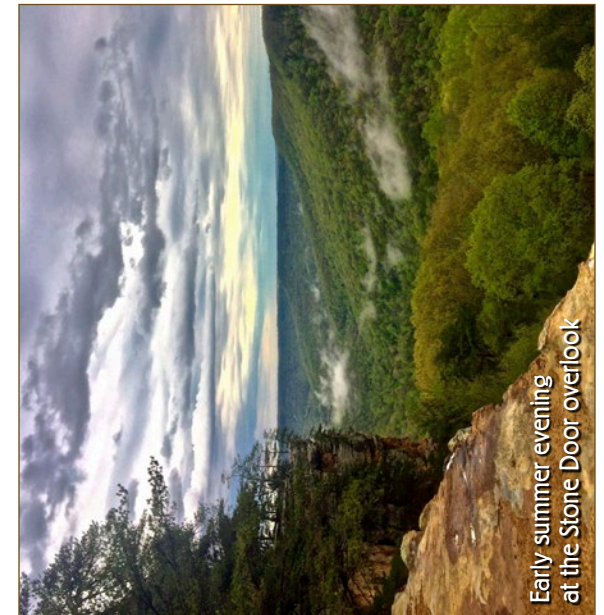
PRODUCED BY

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South Cumberland State Park T R A I L G U I D E SAVAGE GULF NORTH

INCLUDING TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS FOR PORTIONS OF
**the STONE DOOR, BIG CREEK GULF
and RANGER FALLS TRAILS**



Early summer evening at the Stone Door overlook



RESEARCHED AND PRESENTED BY THE
TRAIL FRIENDS INFORMATION TEAM
OF THE FRIENDS OF SOUTH CUMBERLAND STATE PARK

TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS for portions of the **STONE DOOR, BIG CREEK GULF and RANGER FALLS TRAILS**

This hike involves THREE trails. It is a challenging but rewarding full-day, 7-mile round trip. You'll begin on the Stone Door Trail, then take the Big Creek and Ranger Falls Trails to explore the depths of Big Creek Gulf. **THIS IS AN OUT-AND-BACK ROUTE. WHEN YOU'RE DONE EXPLORING, RETURN THE WAY YOU CAME IN.**

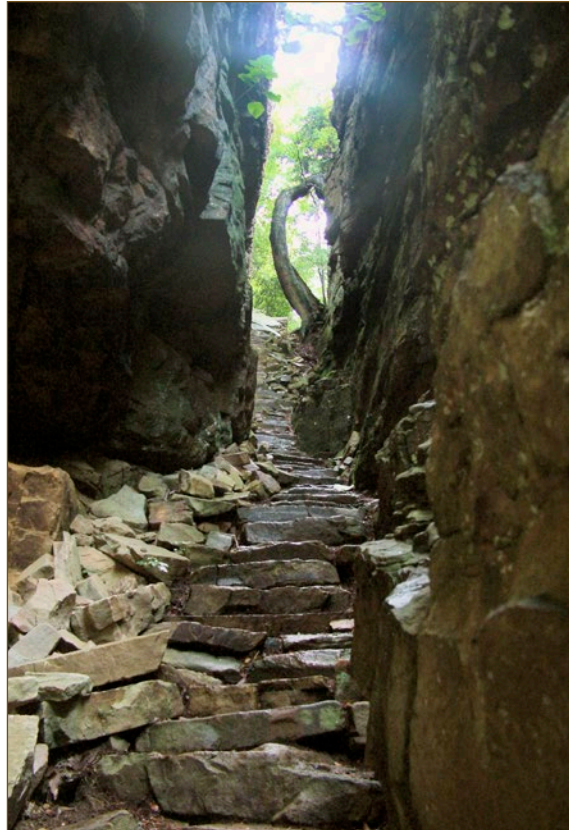
Stone Door Trail Log with Mileage

- 0.0 Trail begins at the Stone Door Ranger Station.
- 0.2 Laurel Gulf Overlook - a great view of Laurel Creek gorge with the Stone Door cliffs to the far right.
- 0.9 Big Creek Rim Trail to the right; Big Creek Gulf Trail starting with the Stone Door straight ahead, and overlooks to the left and straight ahead. **CONTINUE STRAIGHT AHEAD TO THE BIG CREEK GULF TRAIL.**

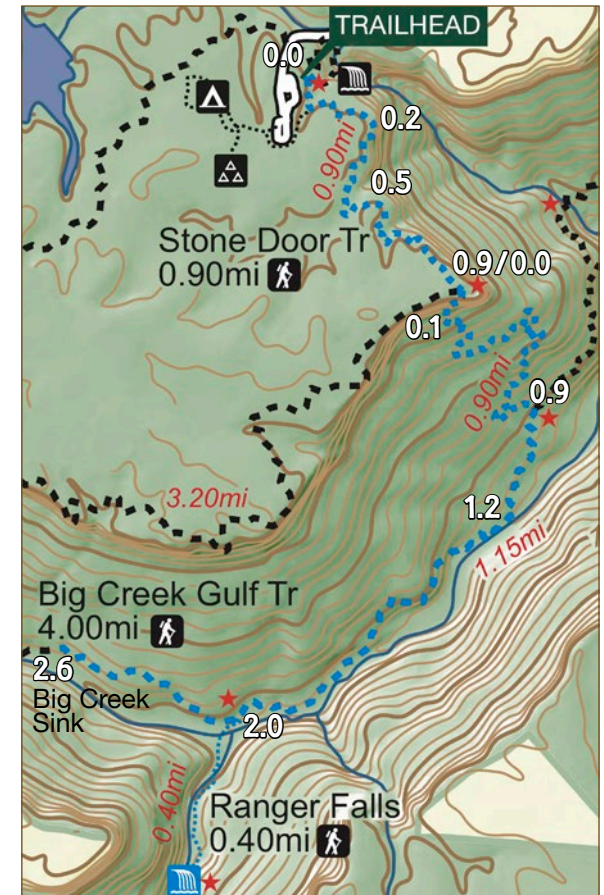
Big Creek Gulf Trail Log with Mileage

- 0.0 Trail begins from Stone Door Trail above the overlook, and then steeply descends through the Stone Door passageway.
- 0.1 Trail continues down extremely rocky slopes.
- 0.9 Connector Trail to left, Big Creek Gulf Trail to right.
- 1.2 Old logging road to left leads to several resurgent springs where the creek comes back up after a two-mile underground stretch. A good but cold swimming hole is below the springs when they're flowing.
- 2.0 The Ranger Falls Trail is to the left. This 0.4 mi. side trail leads to the falls and sink of Ranger Creek.
- 2.6 Sinks Trail to left; this short spur leads to where Big Creek usually disappears under an imposing, unstable limestone bluff (photo on reverse).

After visiting the Big Creek Sink, TURN AROUND AND RETURN THE WAY YOU CAME IN.



The Great Stone Door has been the gateway to the bottom of Savage Gulf for centuries, both for indigenous peoples and European settlers.



Follow the route marked in blue to Ranger Falls. You then have the option of continuing on to the Big Creek Sink. After viewing the sink, please retrace your route.



Foggy November afternoon
in Big Creek Gulf