

**EAST TENNESSEE WANDERERS
GATLINBURG TOURIST WALK
5K/10K**

Table of Contents

Page 1 Gatlinburg

Page 1 Starting Point Directions and Parking

Page 1 General Walk Information

Page 2 Point of Contact

Page 2 Special Programs

Page 2 OSB Reminders

Page 2 Other East Tennessee Wanderers' Events

Page 3 Walk Directions & Map – 5/10 km

GATLINBURG

Our walk will introduce you to the fun and interesting tourist side of the popular vacation resort of Gatlinburg, originally known as White Oak Flats. While first settled around 1806, it was in 1856 that a Post Office was established in the general store of Radford Gatlin, and Gatlinburg gained its name. Around 1900, tourists began to be drawn here by the natural wonders of the local area. Andrew Huff opened the first hotel in Gatlinburg (the Mountain View Hotel) in 1916. But it was the opening of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in 1934 that changed Gatlinburg forever. In 1912, Gatlinburg had a general population of 600, most of whom lived in log cabins. There were 6 houses, a blacksmith shop, a general store, and a Baptist church. In the first year of the National Park, an estimated 40,000 visitors passed through the city. By the second year, visitors had topped 500,000. As tourism took hold, land prices went from \$50 an acre in 1940 to \$8,000 an acre in 1950. OK, enough of the history; let's go walk through this tourist town, where you will find t-shirts, gift shops, pancake houses, and fun activities for everyone.

STARTING POINT

You are starting your walk at the Nantahala Outdoor Center (NOC), 1138 Parkway, Gatlinburg, TN 37738 (Traffic Light #10)

Directions:

From the West via I-40, take exit 407 toward TN-66 S/Winfield Dunn Pkwy. Turn right onto US-441 S (Parkway). NOC will be on your left.

From the East via I-40, take exit 447 toward Hartford Rd. Take US-321 to Parkway in Gatlinburg. NOC will be on your left.

Parking: Gatlinburg is quite congested and parking can be difficult and expensive depending on the time of year. Free street parking can sometimes be found on River Road, a couple of blocks from NOC.

Latitude 35.706612, Longitude -83.521978

GENERAL WALK INFORMATION

This walk uses the sidewalks in Gatlinburg. There is always some construction going on; so, be flexible. Please be very careful as you cross the streets of Gatlinburg. Always use the crosswalks when available. While pedestrians have the right-of-way in the crosswalks, you might be right, but don't be dead right.

Be aware that things can change fast in a tourist driven town, and business come and go in a heartbeat. So, be more mindful of street names in the directions than business names

Bathrooms are available at the Nantahala Outdoor Center and a number of locations on the route.

POINT OF CONTACT

Guy Calkins (president @easttennesseewanderers.org) 585-727-6493
If you have questions, comments, or recommendations with respect to this event, please do not hesitate to make contact.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

The three Special Programs associated with this walk are Walking the USA A-Z (Gatlinburg, TN), 50 States (**Tennessee**), and Walking with America's Veterans (on both routes)

OSB REMINDERS

Be sure to log back into the OSB system to finish/complete your online registration. You can then print out your insert cards for this walk.

OTHER EAST TENNESSEE WANDERERS EVENTS

While in the area, you might enjoy some of our other events.

Linda Nelson Memorial, Alcoa Bike, Bridges of Pistol Creek (Alcoa/Maryville Extended Greenway), A.T. Through Tennessee, Gatlinburg Trail, Elkmont Historic, Knoxville (Music, Moonshine, and Art), Knoxville (UT), Knoxville (North Knoxville – 4th & Gill), Seven Islands State Birding Park, Maryville, Clinton 12, Oak Ridge, Townsend, and Fort Loudoun State Historic Park.



The East Tennessee Wanderers GATLINBURG TOURIST WALK©

Gatlinburg, TN Rated 1A (c)2025

5/10 KM Walk Y1308

1. Go down the steps in the front of the NOC store and at the sidewalk along the Parkway, turn Right. As you walk, note the Tramway Mall across the Parkway. For the best view of the magnificent Smoky Mountains, make sure to ride the Aerial Tramway. Departing regularly from Tramway Mall, the cable cars will take you on a breathtaking 2.1-mile ride up to the top of Mount Harrison and the only ski resort in Tennessee, Ober Gatlinburg, with eight ski trails and three chair lifts.
2. Continue along the Parkway crossing LeConte Creek Rd.
3. Turn Right into Elks Plaza and walk to the back of the Plaza and try out some free samples of jerky. Walk back to the Parkway.
4. Turn right on the Parkway and pass the Gatlinburg Convention Center on your right where there are public restrooms
5. Cross Historic Nature Trail - Airport Road (Traffic Light #8), then turn right.
6. Walk up Nature Trail - Airport Road until you reach large parking lot on the left.
7. Reverse course to return to the Parkway noting on your right the Space Needle, an all steel 400 foot observation tower served by two glass elevators to an observation deck for a 360° view of the Great Smoky Mountains and the resort city of Gatlinburg
8. Turn right once you are back at the Parkway, and continue along the Parkway.
9. Cross the Parkway immediately after Ripley's Believe It or Not. At the near side of the Parkway, it is Reagan Dr. Across the Parkway, it is Maples Lane. You can take see the Sky Lift which takes passengers 1,800 feet up to the top of Crockett Mountain for spectacular views of the natural beauty of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.
10. Turn right and continue down the Parkway.
11. Turn left into Market Place Mall. (The sign is small, turn left at LIDS.) Walk to the back of Market Place Mall. Right before the end of this section you will find restrooms. Continue on around and return to the Parkway.
12. Turn left on the Parkway and continue on to Baskin Square Mall.
13. Turn left into Baskin Square Mall and walk *to the back and to the right where you take the ramp to the upper level.*
14. Continue on around the upper level of Baskin Square Mall, then take the steps back to the ground level, and proceed back to the Parkway.
15. Cross the Parkway and enter The Village
16. As you walk into The Village on Village Way, you may want to visit The Day Hiker. Whether you stop here or not, you will need to turn right on The Crescent and continue around the loop of stores.
17. As you reach the back of this "loop of stores," you will find an olive oil store, Zi Olive.
18. Continue on around and into Pin Oak Plaza, go behind the fountain, and turn right on Village Way
19. At the top of the hill you will find public restrooms. Reverse course and start back down hill. Turn Left at Fountain Square to head back on Village Way to the Parkway. You will pass the Donut Friar the large fountain on your left.

Copyright © by East Tennessee Wanderers, 2025

In case of emergency, call 9-1-1

After emergency, call (585) 727-6493

20. Turn right at the Parkway and continue walking along the Parkway.
21. At traffic light 6 (Cherokee Orchard Road/Baskin Creek Road) if you are really in a shopping frenzy, you can cross the Parkway and go back to visit the 30+ stores in the Mountain Mall. This is more than just a shopping location as every detail of the shopping center has a mountain theme from cedar walls to the whiskey barrel trash cans (which are the same barrels used to make Jack Daniel's Tennessee Whiskey.) Appalachian mountain music recorded by local musicians plays in the background. Around the two indoor water fountains (one of which is over 30 feet tall!) there are authentic mountain folk paraphernalia including millstones, a moonshine still, and a full-size bear trap. This location celebrates the rich history of Gatlinburg and the Ogle family who owns and manages the Mountain Mall. The halls have historical displays featuring "now-and-then" pictures of the town and pictures of the Ogle's General Store (opened in 1850 and moved to the site where the Mall stands in 1910.) Even the actual 1934 Ford Model A delivery truck from the old family store can be seen on display.
22. Once you satisfy those shopping urges, return to other side of the street, cross Cherokee Orchard Road/Baskin Creek Road, and continue on down the Parkway.
23. To your right is the entrance to Anakeesta (a family friendly adventure park).
24. At Traffic Light #3, at Martha Jane Ogle's Cabin is the Parkway Courtesy Center, a convenient water and restroom stop.
25. At Traffic Light #3 the road splits.
26. **10 km** Continue to the right along North 321 (East Parkway).
- 5 km** Cross East Parkway (321/73) and continue up the Parkway (71/441/321) as it branches left. Be very careful here as some cars going right tend to ignore the fact that you have a WALK signal. Don't become a hood ornament!
Skip to Step 41
27. Cross Baskins Creek By-Pass
28. Turn Right into Winery Square.
29. Walk up the hill and turn left into the first parking lot. Take a few minutes to visit the Smoky Mountain Farm Store/Jelly House on your right. If you have visited a winery and sampled their wines, you've got the concept, but here you get to sample various homemade jams, jellies, butters, syrups, hot sauces, and more. Ever tried moonshine flavored jelly? You can try it and many other unique flavors here.
30. Now you must visit the world's only Salt & Pepper Shaker Museum on your left. The museum is normally open Monday thru Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Adult admission is a nominal \$3, which goes toward any Salt and Pepper Shaker purchase in the gift shop. Children 12 and under are free.
31. Continue through the parking lot and turn left onto Silver Bell Lane (unmarked).
32. Walk to the Parkway and turn Right.
33. Cross Roaring Fork Ext and then Rattlesnake Hollow where you will see the old Ski View Motel. As you look up the mountain ahead, note the condos along the side of the mountain and at the ridge line. Cabin and Condo rentals are a big business up here.
34. Cross Sleepy Hollow Rd and note Sleepy Bear Motel on your right.
35. Continue on up the Parkway to the traffic light. Bank on your right.

Copyright © by East Tennessee Wanderers, 2025

In case of emergency, call 9-1-1

After emergency, call (585) 727-6493

36. Turn left and carefully cross the Parkway at the Newman Road traffic light.
37. Turn left once across the Parkway, to walk back toward downtown Gatlinburg.
38. Cross Hickman Hollow Rd., Village Dr., and Ogle Dr. West. Be sure to stop at Mad Dog's Creamery and Donuts, Ice Cream Parlors (SP). Great treats! They survived the 2016 wildfire intact while businesses next door and across the street were totally destroyed. (restrooms available).
39. Cross Poplar Ln, Spruce Ln, and Willow Ln.
40. Back at Traffic Light #3, round the corner without crossing any streets and start up the Parkway.
41. Continue on to the 2nd crosswalk (Smoky Mountain Trout House on your right). Use the crosswalk to cross over the Parkway here and turn left to walk back along the Parkway. You will continue to walk into town on the right side of the road with traffic coming from behind you..
42. On your right you will see the West Prong of the Little Pigeon River along with No Way Jose's Cantina. Not a bad place to stop for the Fourth F and a bit of liquid refreshment.
43. Cross at traffic light #5, then turn right to Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies.
44. Go up the steps on the left with the West Prong of the Little Pigeon River on your left.
45. At this point you can stop and visit the Aquarium and when you are ready to complete your walk proceed to your left across the bridge.
46. Turn right once down the steps on the far side of the bridge, (river will be on your right) to follow River Road.
47. If you need a restroom, keep an eye on the buildings to your left. Just past a parking lot on your left, you can cross the street and go up the steps (next to Back Alley) to the same restrooms you saw earlier in the walk.
48. Pass under the chairlift.
49. Cross Long Branch Road at the light, and continue along River Road.
50. Turn left to cross River Road at the traffic light at Ski Mountain Road.
51. Walk up Ski Mountain Road on the left facing traffic.
52. When you reach the Parkway, cross over at the light and proceed back to NOC.

Congratulations! Hopefully you enjoyed this exploration of the tourist side of Gatlinburg.



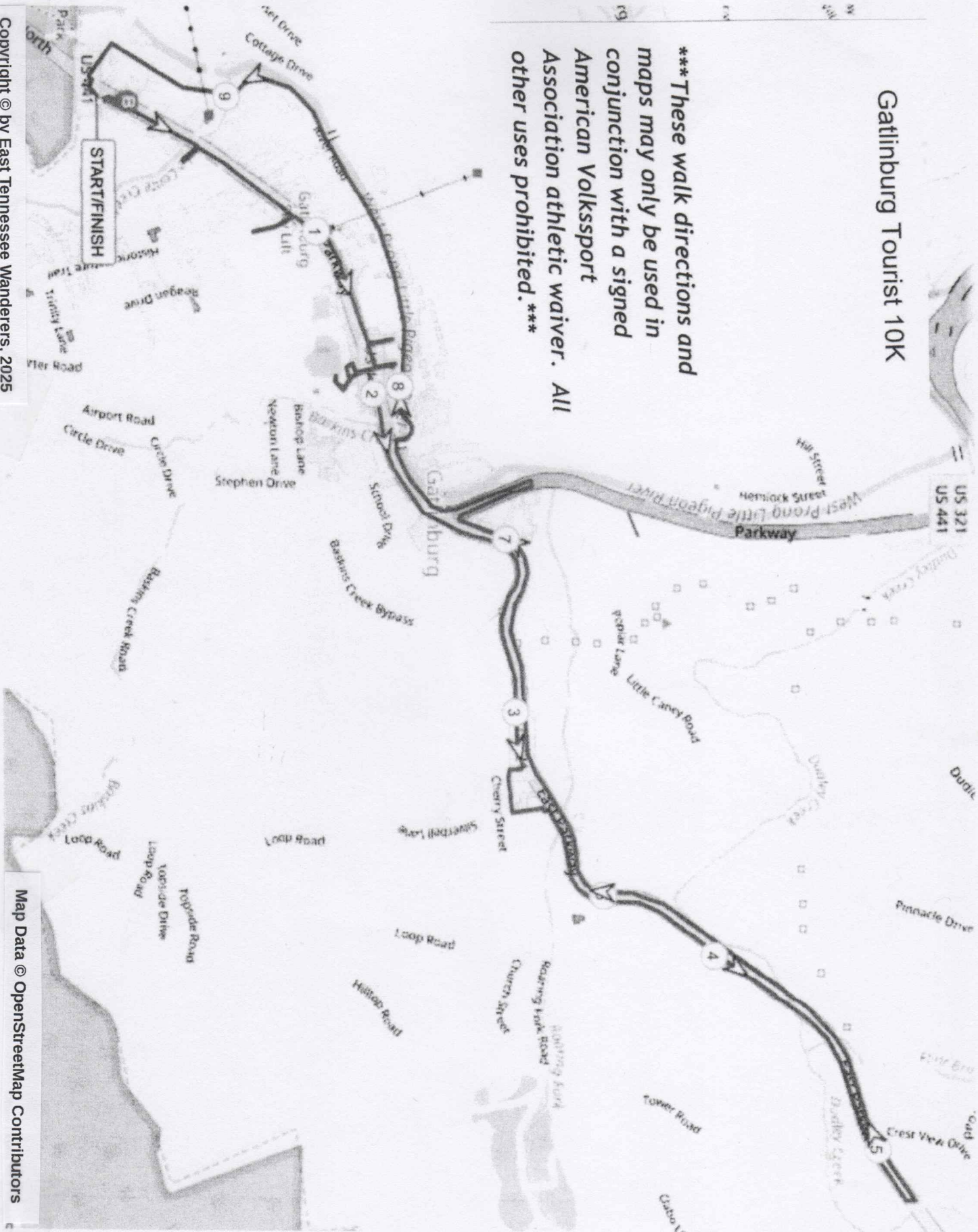
Copyright – East Tennessee Wanderers – 2025

In case of emergency, call 9-1-1

After emergency, call (585) 727-6493

Gatlinburg Tourist 10K

These walk directions and maps may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses prohibited.



Copyright © by East Tennessee Wanderers, 2025

Map Data © OpenStreetMap Contributors