

Newfound Gap – Appalachian Trail - 5/13 KM

Copyright © 2018 – East Tennessee Wanderers

This map and directions may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association (AVA) athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.

START/FINISH POINT: Newfound Gap Parking Area, Great Smoky Mountains National Park

From the North (Knoxville) take US 441 S through Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg. Continue on US 441 S into the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Parking area for Newfound Gap will be on your left. From the West (Maryville area) take US 321 N to Great Smoky Mountains National Park. At Sugarlands Visitor Center, turn right onto US 441 S. Parking area for Newfound Gap will be on your left. From Cherokee, NC, take US 441 N. Newfound Gap Parking Area will be on your right.

AVA Special Programs: *Appalachian Trail, Border Crossing, National Parks Centennial, Walking the USA A – Z (G)*



In case of emergency, dial 911 or call the Park Emergency Line at (865) 436-9171. After emergency, contact East Tennessee Wanderers at (865) 617-9945.

Before heading out for this walk, be sure to check the weather, road conditions –

twitter.com/smokiesroadsnps, and trail closures –

[nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit/temproadclose.htm](https://www.nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit/temproadclose.htm). Conditions can change throughout the day. For updated road and weather information, please call (865)436-1200. Once you hear a voice, dial extension 631 for road information or extension 630 for a weather forecast.

While it is unlikely that you will cross paths with a Black Bear while participating in this event, it is important to know what to do if you should meet up with one of the 1,500 bears who make the Park their home. Be sure to review the following: www.nps.gov/grsm/learn/nature/black-bears.htm

This can be a strenuous out-and-back walk/hike based on weather and trail conditions. Boots, hiking poles, and water are highly recommended.

Park anywhere in the Newfound Gap Parking area. There are bathrooms just off the parking lot. The Appalachian Trail crosses through the parking lot.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt, with one foot in Tennessee and one foot in North Carolina, dedicated the Great Smoky Mountains National Park at Newfound Gap on September 2, 1940. The park was established in 1934, but urgent political issues delayed the dedication. World events almost caused the dedication to not happen. The trail you will walk roughly parallels Clingmans Dome Road. You will also have one foot in Tennessee and one foot in North Carolina along the route.

- 1. Carefully cross US441 at the crosswalk to the trail. LOOK CAREFULLY BOTH WAYS BEFORE CROSSING US441. DO NOT EXPECT CARS TO STOP FOR YOU!**
- 2. Once across US441, look for the AT trail sign. (Elev. 5,045 ft) You are hiking in the direction of the highest point on the Appalachian Trail (Clingmans Dome, 6,643'), but no worries we won't walk that far.**
- 3. Watch your step with all the roots and rocks, and look for the white blaze of the A.T., the only trail in the park that is blazed.**
- 4. At Mingus Ridge (Elev. 5,457 ft) the trail will cross two fences that exclude wild hogs from a square of beech forest. You can walk up the style made of grating, but the hogs with their sharp hooves can't.**
- 5. 5K Route: Turn around when you come to the intersection with Road Prong Trail (Elev. 5,283 ft) and walk back to your car.**

6. **13K Walkers:** Continue along the AT toward Clingmans Dome. When you reach the intersection with Fork Mountain Trail (Elev. 5,892), turn around and head back to your car.

CONGRATULATIONS on finishing your 5 KM or 13 KM volkssporting event! Don't forget to return to the Online Startbox to check-in as complete and get your AVA/IVV stamped Insert Card for this event!

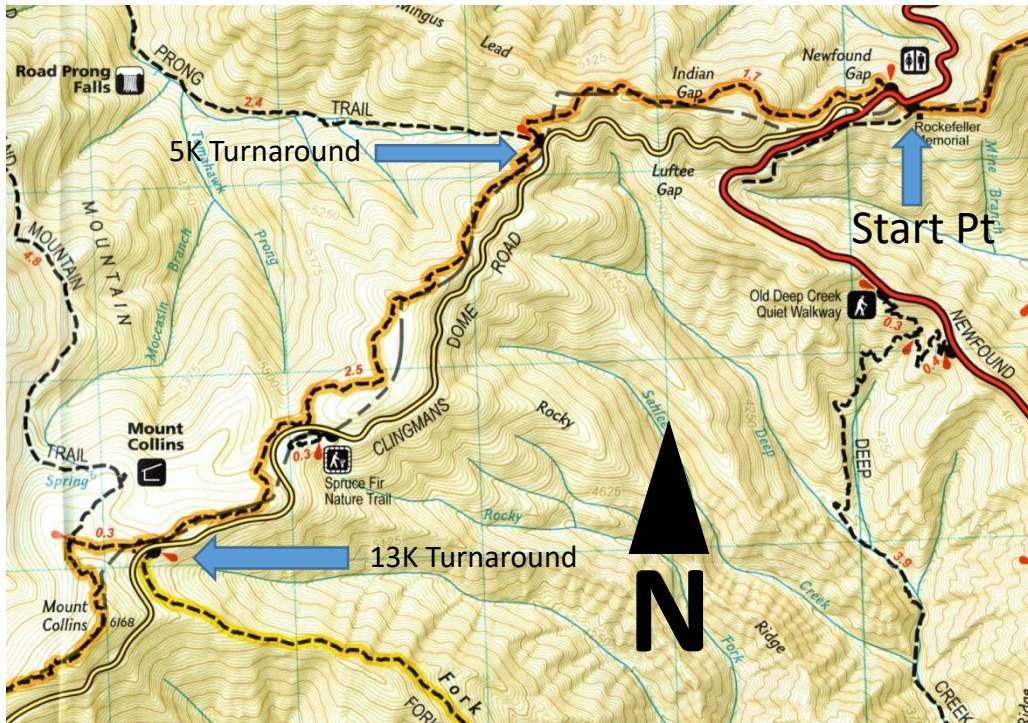
Once you get back to your car, you might want to drive up Clingmans Dome Road to the highest point in the Smoky Mountains and the highest point on the A.T. Note that the road is only open from April 1 to November 30, weather permitting.

You can find the special Great Smoky Mountains National Park Passport Stamp at the Townsend Visitor Center, the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont, Cades Cove Welcome Center, Sugarlands Visitor Center, Clingmans Dome Visitor Station, Oconaluftee Visitor Center, and Deep Creek Campground. You will have to pass at least one of these locations on your way in or out of the Park. This special cancellation will make a nice addition to your A.T Program Book.

This walk is sponsored by
the East Tennessee Wanderers,
a proud member of
THE AMERICAN VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION
America's Walking Club!!

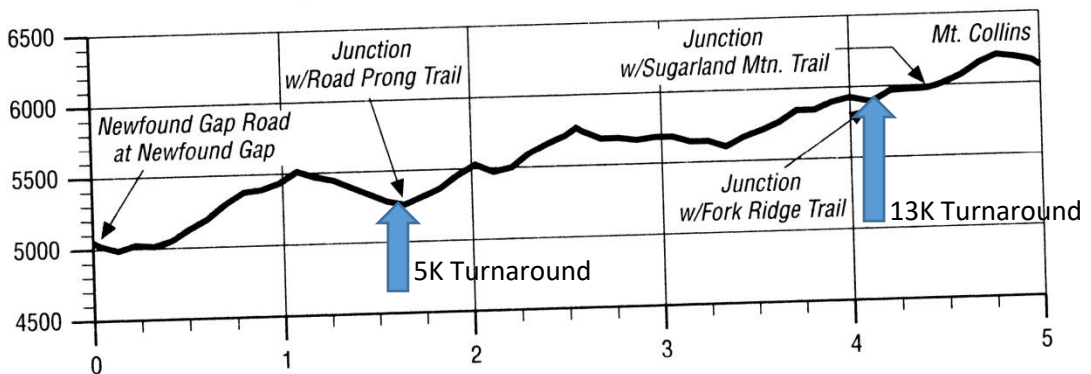


**Newfound Gap – Appalachian Trail - 5/13 KM
 East Tennessee Wanderers – Online Startbox
 © 1 January 2018**



APPALACHIAN TRAIL

NEWFOUND GAP TO CLINGMANS DOME



Credit: Hiking Trails of the Smokies, Great Smoky Mountains Association, Gatlinburg, TN, 5th Edition, 2012