

**EAST TENNESSEE WANDERERS  
GATLINBURG TRAIL WALK  
7K/10K**

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## GATLINBURG TRAIL

Our walk is an out-and-back making use of the Gatlinburg Trail, one of the easiest trails in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Through much of the walk, the trail runs between the West Prong of the Little Pigeon River and Newfound Gap Road. Keep your eyes open during this walk for signs of those families who once lived in what became the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Unfortunately, there is limited information available on who lived in these cabins and houses. In addition to those families who lived and worked in these mountains, several wealthy Knoxvilleians kept summer homes at various places in the Smokys. Also watch for the "trail marker tree" with its horizontal bend several feet off the ground pointing along the direction of the trail. This "trail marker tree" is thought to be a notable example of one of these signposts of the Cherokee. It will be on your left as you walk toward Gatlinburg. Although the forest is recovering, you can still see signs of the massive forest fire that threatened to engulf Gatlinburg and the Smoky Mountains National Park in 2016.

## STARTING POINT

You are starting your walk at the Sugarlands Visitor Center in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (1420 Fighting Creek Gap Road, Gatlinburg, TN 37738). This is NOT the same starting point that is used with the Physical Start Box (PSB) due to the difficulty of parking in Gatlinburg. The route is the same, but you will be starting in the middle of the route followed by those using the PSB. However, you will have free parking.

### **Directions:**

From the East (Gatlinburg), take US-441 S/Parkway. Turn right onto Fighting Creek Gap Rd with the Sugarlands Visitor Center on your right..

From the West (Maryville, TN), take US-321 N/E Lamar Alexander Pkwy. Continue on US-321 turning left at the traffic light as you leave Townsend. Turn right on Line Springs Rd and continue onto Wear Cove Gap Rd. Turn left onto Little River Gorge Rd/Old State Hwy 73 Scenic. Continue onto Fighting Creek Gap Rd and turn left into the Sugarlands Visitor Center parking area..

**Parking:** Sugarlands Visitor Center has a large, free parking area. However, be aware that during high tourist seasons, these lots can fill up. Once full there is no overflow parking available. Walkers are advised during the tourist seasons to arrive early.

**Latitude 35.685551, Longitude -83.536701**

## GENERAL WALK INFORMATION

This walk uses one of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park trails and a short distance on sidewalks in Gatlinburg. While the trail is relatively easy, please be careful as it is easy to trip over a rock or root on the trail.

Bathrooms are available at the Sugarlands Visitor Center and at the Nantahala Outdoor Center.

## POINT OF CONTACT

Dan Lewis (president @easttennesseewanderers.org) 865-441-2429  
If you have questions, comments, or recommendations with respect to this event, please do not hesitate to make contact.

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

The two Special Programs associated with this walk are Walking the USA A-Z (Gatlinburg, TN), and 50 States (**Tennessee**).

## OSB REMINDERS

Please use either the Online Start Box (OSB) or Physical Start Box (PSB) to register and complete this event. **DO NOT mix and match**, for example, by registering using the OSB then completing your event using the PSB, or using the OSB then signing the PSB log sheet. The sponsoring club only receives credit for OSB participation when an OSB registration has been completed online by entering your participation date, distances, and any special programs using the OSB.

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.

Alcoa Greenway, Alcoa Bike, Alcoa/Maryville Extended Greenway, A.T. Through Tennessee, Gatlinburg Tourist, Elkmont Historic, Newfound Gap (A.T.), Knoxville (Music, Moonshine, and Art), Knoxville (UT), Knoxville (North Knoxville – 4<sup>th</sup> & Gill), Seven Islands State Birding Park, Maryville, Clinton 12, Oak Ridge, Townsend, and Fort Loudoun State Historic Park.



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**The East Tennessee Wanderers  
Gatlinburg Trail Walk©  
Gatlinburg, TN  
7 KM Walk    Rated 2B    Y1224**

1. After finishing your visit to the Sugarlands Visitor Center, **exit the building and turn right.**
2. **Turn right again and go between the restrooms and the Visitor Center.**
3. **Continue along** the sidewalk and **walk to** Park Headquarters Road.
4. **Turn left** on Park Headquarters Rd.
5. **Follow** Park Headquarters Road to the park maintenance area where you will take the gravel trail to your right (**Gatlinburg Trail**) that will take you to Gatlinburg.
6. **Turn left** on River Road in Gatlinburg after leaving the Gatlinburg Trail. The stone building on your left is the city's waterworks.
7. **Cross Ski Mountain Road at the light and turn right.**
8. **Walk to the Gatlinburg Parkway/ Newfound Gap Road (US 441).**
9. At the traffic light, **carefully cross** the Gatlinburg Parkway/Newfound Gap Road (US 441) **to the Nantahala Outdoor Center (NOC).** Restrooms, water, and excellent shopping in NOC.
10. As you exit NOC, **proceed** to traffic light #10 and **carefully cross** the **Gatlinburg Parkway/Newfound Gap Road (US 441).**
11. Walk straight ahead on **Ski Mountain Road.**
12. **Cross then turn left** at the first cross street (**River Road**).
13. Take the **Gatlinburg Trail** on your **right.**
14. **Follow the Gatlinburg Trail back** to the Sugarlands Visitor Center

15. When you reach the National Park Maintenance area on your right, go left on Park Headquarters Rd.
16. **Continue along this road**, passing Ranger Residence area and the Little River Ranger Station on your right.
17. **At the second road on your right, carefully cross the Park Headquarters Rd to enter** the old cemetery on your right.
18. **Take the path up** through the cemetery noting the historic headstones.
19. **Return to Park Headquarters Rd** as you exit the cemetery.
20. **Turn right** and walk almost to the end of the small parking lot.
21. **Turn right to follow the sidewalk toward the Headquarters for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.** *This stone building was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the period from 1939 to 1940. Take a moment and go in the building through the double doors. You will be in the building lobby which was constructed to look like the living room of the Blount Mansion in Knoxville. The walls are wormy chestnut paneling salvaged from blight-killed trees. The iron light fixtures were created by a local blacksmith in Wear Cove from parts of a log skidder that operated in the area of the Little River.*
22. Leaving the Headquarters building, **continue along the sidewalk to the Sugarlands Visitor Center.**

**CONGRATULATIONS** on completing your walk.

**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.**

**POC: Dan Lewis (865) 441-2429**

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In case of emergency, call 9-1-1  
After emergency, call (865) 441-2429

# Gatlinburg Trail 7K



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300 m

1000 ft

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**The East Tennessee Wanderers  
Gatlinburg Trail Walk©  
Gatlinburg, TN  
10 KM Walk    Rated 2B    Y1224**

1. **Exit the Sugarlands Visitor building and turn right.**
2. **Turn right again and go between the restrooms and the Visitor Center.**
3. **Follow** the asphalt trail to the Fighting Creek Nature Trail.
4. **Take the Fighting Creek Nature Trail to your left.** The nature trail is a loop.
5. **Cross the bridge, then turn left** to start the loop. When you get to the "top" of the loop you will come to the well-preserved cabin of John Ownby.
6. **With the cabin at your back, continue** along the nature trail loop to your left.
7. **Turn left** when you have completed the loop and are back to the bridge.
8. **Take the trail** (out-and-back) to Cataract Falls.
9. **Turn around and head back** after enjoying the falls.
10. **On return from the falls, don't go back down the steps, but go straight to the Sugarlands Residence Road and turn left.**
11. **Take Sugarlands Residence Road** to turn **left** on Park Headquarters Road.
12. **Follow** Park Headquarters Road to the park maintenance area where you will **take** the gravel trail (**Gatlinburg Trail**) to your right that will take you to Gatlinburg.
13. **Turn left** on River Road in Gatlinburg after leaving the Trailhead. The stone building on your left is the city's waterworks.
14. **Cross Ski Mountain Road at the light and turn right.**
15. **Walk straight ahead to the Gatlinburg Parkway/ Newfound Gap Road (US 441).**
16. At the traffic light, **carefully cross** the Gatlinburg Parkway/Newfound Gap Road (US 441) **to the Nantahala Outdoor Center (NOC). Water, restrooms,& great shopping at NOC.**
17. **Exit NOC and proceed** to traffic light #10 and **carefully cross the Gatlinburg Parkway/Newfound Gap Road (US 441).**
18. Walk straight on **Ski Mountain Road.**
19. **Turn left** at first cross street (**River Rd**).
20. **Take the Gatlinburg Trail** on your right back to the Sugarlands Visitor Center.:
21. When you reach the National Park Maintenance area on your right go left on Park Headquarters Road,
22. **Continue along this road**, passing Ranger Residence area and the Little River Ranger Station on your right.
23. **At the second road on your right, carefully cross the Park Headquarters Rd to enter** the old cemetery on your right.
24. **Take the path up** through the cemetery noting the historic headstones.
25. **Return to Park Headquarters Rd** as you exit the cemetery.
26. **Turn right** and walk almost to the end of the small parking lot.
27. **Turn right** to follow the sidewalk toward the building.
28. *The building to your right, the Headquarters for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the period from 1939 to 1940. Take a moment and go in the building through the double doors. The building lobby, constructed to look like the living room of the Blount Mansion in Knoxville, has walls of wormy chestnut paneling salvaged from blight-killed trees. The iron light fixtures were created by a local blacksmith in Wear Cove from parts of a log skidder that operated in the area of the Little River.*
29. Leaving the Headquarters building, **continue along the sidewalk to return to the Sugarlands Visitor Center.**

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.

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# Gatlinburg Trail 10K



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1000 ft

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