

# Laurel Falls

<b>Trail Features:</b>	Waterfalls
<b>Trail Location:</b>	Little River Road
<b>Roundtrip Length:</b>	2.3 Miles
<b>Total Elevation Gain:</b>	314 Feet
<b>Avg. Elevation Gain / Mile:</b>	273 Feet
<b>Highest Elevation:</b>	2,677 Feet
<b>Trail Difficulty Rating:</b>	2.93 (easy)

## Trail Description:

Laurel Falls is an extremely popular destination within Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The Laurel Falls Trail was built in 1932 to provide fire crews with access to the Cove Mountain area in the event of a forest fire. By the early 1960s, however, Laurel Falls had become a popular hiking destination for visitors, and erosion was beginning to take a toll on the trail. As part of the 1963 Accelerated Works Projects grant to the Department of Interior, the Laurel Falls Trail was paved in order to halt problems with erosion.



Roundtrip, the hike to Laurel Falls and back is 2.3 miles. Hikers will climb roughly 314 feet in elevation before arriving at the 80-foot waterfall. The hike is well worth it though - Laurel Falls is very photogenic!

The waterfall consists of an upper and a lower section, divided by a walkway which crosses the stream (Laurel Branch) at the base of the upper falls. The falls receives its name from the mountain laurel that blooms along the trail and near the falls in May.