

Crabtree Falls Trail is a 2.9 mile trail featuring a series of five major cascades and a number of smaller ones that fall a total distance of 1,200 feet. The trail is universally accessible to the first overlook located approximately 0.1 miles up the trail.

The trail provides views of the falls from 4 overlooks. The first overlook is universally accessible, making it an excellent stopover for travelers. The more adventuresome hiker may continue on to the other overlooks, to Crabtree Meadows, or even the Appalachian Trail.

The peak season for viewing the waterfalls is from winter through spring, when the water is high. Although the water flow is lower during the remainder of the year, the trail is still popular.

Hiking boots or comfortable shoes are recommended on the trail. During the winter, the trail may be covered with ice and should be traveled with extreme caution.

Crabtree Falls trail is located off State Route 56, a narrow winding highway in Nelson County. It may also be reached via SR 826 off SR 56. SR 826 is a dirt road recommended for four-wheel drive or high-axle vehicles only.



WARNING

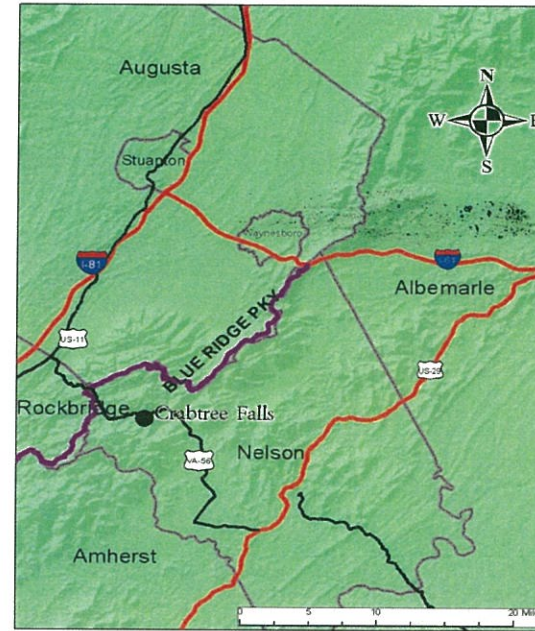
Stay on the trail! Do not climb the rocks around the observation points or wade in the stream. The terrain is extremely dangerous.

The cliffs and paths near the stream are steep and the rocks are slippery, because of a clear algae that grows on them. In the past few years a number of hikers and pets have been swept over the falls to their death or seriously injured after venturing too close to the waterfalls.

Environment and Safety Rules

In order to minimize environmental damage to the area and to provide for the safety of hikers, the Forest Service has established the following regulations:

- Camping, fires, campfires, and campstoves are NOT permitted within 100 feet of the South Fork of the Tye River, within 500 feet along either side of the Crabtree Falls Trail, and within 500 feet of the outside edges of the parking lot off State Route 56 and the parking lot at Crabtree Meadows.
- Alcoholic beverages prohibited.
- Bicycles, any motorized vehicles, saddle, pack, and draft animals are not permitted on the Crabtree Falls Trail.
- Hikers should leave the area in a natural condition. The "pack-it-in, pack-it-out" system is used to minimize clean-up cost.
- To protect natural vegetation and prevent erosion, taking shortcuts between segments of the trail is prohibited.



For maps and additional information contact:

USDA, Forest Service
Glenwood & Pedlar Ranger Districts
P.O. Box 10, 27 Ranger Lane
Natural Bridge Station, VA 24579
Phone: (540) 291-2188
www.fs.usda.gov/gwj

Office Hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.,
Monday through Friday.

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Pedlar Ranger District
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