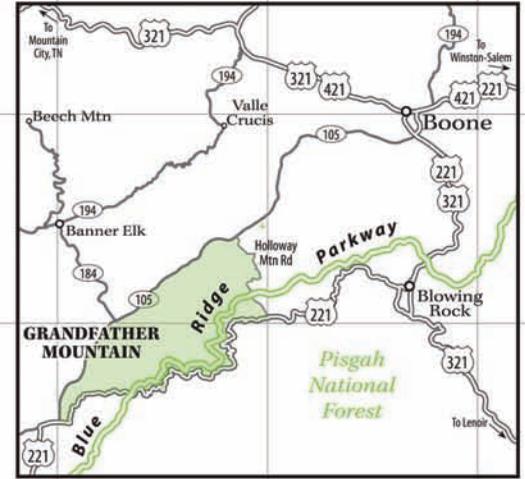


	Grandfather Visitor Center		Campsite		Point of Interest
	Parkway Visitor Center		No Camping		Summit
	Parking		Campfire Permitted		Gap
	Picnic Area		No Campfires		Ladders
	Food Service		Trail Shelter		Overlook
	Trailhead		Water		Parkway Overlook/Parking Area
	Trail		Trail Milepost		Grandfather Mountain Attraction Area
	Grandfather Mountain Attraction Area		Grandfather Mountain State Park		

Scale: 1:25,000
Projected Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) Zone 17 - North American Datum of 1983
0 0.5 1 mile
0 0.5 1 kilometer
Map by POLARIS CARTOGRAPHY



BACKCOUNTRY HIKING @ GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN

Access the trails inside Grandfather Mountain State Park for FREE from off-mountain trailheads. Access to the trails from the Swinging Bridge requires the purchase of a ticket to the attraction.

Enter Grandfather Mountain State Park from the Swinging Bridge area

- Hiking is included in the price of admission. To access the start of the Grandfather Trail, please park at the Hiker's Parking Area, a quarter mile below the summit.
- Please return to your vehicle at least one hour before closing time. If, in an emergency, you leave your car on the mountain, please call 733-2800 (Top Shop), 733-4337 (Gate) or 733-1059 (Nature Museum) as soon as possible to notify Grandfather Mountain staff. If you do not call, we will send out a search party.

Enter Grandfather Mountain State Park for FREE

- Guests wishing only to hike can access Grandfather Mountain State Park from one of the two off-mountain trailheads located either on US 221 or NC 105. A trail map will be supplied when register.
- Plan on hiking back to your car
- If you plan to have someone pick you up at the Swinging Bridge, the driver of the pick-up vehicle will be charged regular gate admission to come inside the travel attraction to pick you up.
- Grandfather Mountain is not able to provide rides to or from trailheads.

TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS

Crest Trails

The Grandfather Trail– An upper mountain ridge trail of astonishing variety, running in and out of wind-dwarfed spruce and fir, across or around rock walls and pinnacles, and into open spaces with views of mountains unfurling in every direction. The jumbled-

up, rocky features of this trail are massive and distinct and conjure up imaginings of what the world must have looked like at the beginning of time.

The route follows the crest of Grandfather Mountain from the Trails Parking Area out 2.4 miles to Calloway Peak. It was along this trail two centuries ago that explorer botanist Andre Michaux broke into song thinking he had arrived at the high point of North America. Pace is oftentimes slow. There are chutes where progress is hand-over-hand and some extra steep sections where hikers use in-place cables and ladders. An alternative to taking the ladders up MacRae Peak is to opt for the more sheltered Underwood Trail (see below). The Grandfather Trail is not for small children or the timid.

The Underwood Trail– Splitting off the Grandfather Trail near the half mile marker, the Underwood Trail bypasses ladder climbs on MacRae Peak, rejoining the Grandfather Trail at MacRae Gap, about a mile out. The trail makes a steep, very rocky loop under the crest line around Raven Rock Cliffs by way of one ladder. Going out along Grandfather and returning along Underwood makes an excellent loop hike from the Swinging Bridge.

West Side Trails

The Profile Trail– Beginning as a scenic, rolling pathway through seasonal wildflowers, this trail crosses the Watauga River and travels under a hardwood canopy for much of its length. Upper sections, beginning around Foscoe View, get steeper. There are frequent rest stops with stone benches and turnouts. In one particular stretch, before coming to the Profile View from which the trail gets its name, there are over 200 slab-like steps pulled down from a boulder field called Peregrines' Way located farther up the slope.

Shanty Spring, at 2.7 miles in, marks the transition into a strenuous pathway of tumble-down rock that joins the Grandfather Trail after a climb of 0.3 miles. It makes the transition out of the hardwoods and into the Canadian fir zone of the crest area. This upper section is steep and rocky and calls for some careful footwork. Your reward is the view at the top, which opens up as you hike along the Grandfather Trail.

East Side Trails

There are two points for accessing East Side trails. Most hikers use the Boone Fork Parking Area at mile 299.9 on the Blue Ridge Parkway. The alternative is the Asutsi Trail which begins across from Serenity Farm on US 221—the only winter access when the Parkway is closed.

From Boone Fork or Serenity Farm parking areas, hikers can follow the Tanawha Trail south to the Nuwati and Daniel Boone Scout Trailheads. The Tanawha winds easily along the mountainside parallel to the Parkway. No fee is charged for its use and no camping is allowed on the trail.

Daniel Boone Scout Trail– Ascending about 2,000 feet over 3 miles, this hike begins at the Tanawha Trail and climbs to the summit of Calloway Peak (5,964'), the highest point in the Blue Ridge Range. About half way up, at Flat Rock View, hikers reach the junction of Cragway Trail. The upper half of the Boone Trail is rough-going but spiced with some exquisite views, including one of Price Park and one of the Linn Cove Viaduct. Just before Calloway Peak, in-place ladders and cables help hikers through steep sections.

Nuwati Trail– Nu-wa-ti means "medicine" in the Cherokee language and this trail follows the print of an old logging road 1.2 miles. It's an easy but rocky hike, ending at Storyteller's Rock and a truly spectacular view of the Boone Bowl. Along the way, there are stream crossings, a solitary stand of Big Tooth Aspens, and reminders of logging days gone by.

Cragway Trail– A steep, strenuous hike with lovely vistas. Boulders and crags jut out here and there opening up elevated (and elevating) views of the Boone Fork Bowl. This trail links Nuwati and Boone Trails and makes a fine loop hike passing through rhododendron and blueberry thickets. A hiking option coming down the Boone Trail when returning to cars is to follow Cragway Trail to the Nuwati.

Asutsi Trail– (US Park Service Trail) A-su-tsi means "bridge" in the Cherokee language. This short, easy trail (0.4 miles) links Serenity Farm on US 221 and the Tanawha Trail, providing alternative access to Nuwati and Boone Trails.

Mountain Regulations

Please stay on the trail. Cutting through switchbacks and exploring areas off the trail can cause erosion, impact rare plants, and generally damage sensitive habitats.

The following policies will help us protect the mountain for future generations.

Camping– Camp in designated areas only. A tepee on the map pinpoints a campsite. A tepee symbol on a trail sign indicates a camping area close by. Since you're in a backcountry setting, please camp quietly after 9 pm so others can enjoy the serenity. And leave trees as you find them—carving into a tree can eventually kill it.

Fire– It's best to bring in a gas backpacking stove for cooking. Campfires are permitted at most lower elevation campsites but not on Grandfather Trail or at Hi-Balsam Shelter. Please don't create new fire rings or move old ones. If you decide to use a fire in a permitted area, keep it small and only collect wood that is down on the ground. Also, be sure to drown fires before leaving camp. Campfires may be banned during dry periods. If you smoke, be especially careful during spring and fall dry spells. Crush cigarettes and carry out the filters.

Dogs– Pets must be on a leash no longer than six feet at all times. Please clean up after your pets.

Litter And Waste– Please carry out everything you carry in. For public health and courtesy reasons, bury all human waste 12" deep, 100 feet from any water resources, campsites, and trails. And thanks for picking up litter left by others!

Prohibited Materials & Activities:

- No Drugs or Alcoholic Beverages
 - No Weapons
- No Removal Of Plants, Rocks, Animals, etc
 - No Rock Climbing
 - No Hunting or Fishing
- No Mountain Bikes, Horses or Pack Animals
 - No Geocaching