

Bailey Falls

1.68 Miles One Way - Very Strenuous - Elevation Gain 1022 Feet
Rocky, Muddy Footpath - Prepare to wade the creek above Margarett Falls
Hiked July 8, 2010 - FOR EXPERIENCED HIKERS ONLY
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Directions to Trailhead: Leave Greeneville on McKee Street which becomes The Jones Bridge Road. Drive approximately 5 miles from town, cross the Nolichucky River, until you reach the intersection with Highway 107 at the Crossroads Service Station and Hardware. Drive straight through the intersection on the Greystone Road for 1.7 miles to the intersection with Tabor Road. Turn right on Tabor Road and drive 1.8 miles to the deadend with Shelton Mission Road. Turn right on Shelton Mission and drive 1.1 miles to the Margarett Falls Parking Lot. You can also stay on the Greystone Road without turning on Tabor and you will also reach Shelton Mission Road, turning right.

Park at the large parking lot next to Shelton Mission Road, walk through the gate and approximately .6 miles up a fairly level, gravel road until a junction with the Bullen Hollow Trail is reached. Bullen Hollow is on your immediate right and climbs very steeply up the side of a ridge. Initially, you will follow the trail to Margarett Falls which goes to the left and climbs gently at first.

After covering about .8 of a mile, you will reach your first creek crossing which is easy under normal water conditions. The second and third crossings (at .97 and 1.21) will be more difficult and care should be taken. The trail at this point has several small rocks which must be climbed but should not be difficult for most hikers. The trail becomes steeper here and usually has some muddy sections. After the final crossing, the trail becomes more level, and a large monolith called Cathedral Rock, will be passed at mile 1.36. Margarett Falls will be reached after hiking 1.47 miles and climbing nearly 900 feet.

At the base of the falls, you will see a faint manway that climbs steeply up the bank to the right. Stay away from the falls as several persons have been seriously hurt attempting to climb it. At the top of the manway, you will reach a ten foot natural rock wall that must be climbed. There are some footholds in the rock and roots to help with the climb. It is possible to go up and around the wall if you don't feel comfortable but be very careful.

After climbing the wall stay on the creekbed as much as possible but the rocks here are very slippery so be careful. Depending on the water level, at some point you will have to begin wading. You will reach a small falls at a fork in the creek, take the left fork and continue on to Bailey Falls. There will be many rocks to climb but the wade is not too difficult. The section above Margarett is a very beautiful gorge ending in a very nice plunge-type waterfall.

Return by the same route and be very careful climbing down the rock wall.



SYNOPSIS OF HIKE

Mile	Elevation	Description
0	1860	Trailhead on Shelton Mission Road.
.6	2008	JCT with Bullen Hollow Trail.
.84	2164	First Creek Crossing.
.97	2245	Second Creek Crossing
1.21	2460	Third Creek Crossing
1.36	2672	Cathedral Rock
1.47	2725	Margarett Falls
1.68	2882	Bailey Falls

