

Low Gap to The Oaks Camp on The Camp Creek Trail

4.16 Mile Shuttle Hike - Moderate, Mostly Downhill

Beautiful Vistas of Camp Creek and Greene County

Rocky, Muddy Footpath - Hiking Trail Only - Minor Creek Crossings

Hiked March 17, 2012

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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, reaching the intersection with Highway 107 at the Crossroads Service Station and Hardware. Drive straight through the 4 way stop for .2 miles and turn right at the stop sign at the convenience store and follow the Camp Creek Road. Continue past Camp Creek Elementary School and Free Will Baptist Home for Children. Immediately turn left on the Greene Mountain Road, Continue a short distance and turn left into Camp Joshua Lane. Drive through The Oaks Camp and leave a car at the open area just before reaching a Forest Service Gate and driveway to a house on the left. Drive the second vehicle out of the camp and turn left onto Greene Mountain Road. Follow the curvy Greene Mountain Road about 4.5 miles until you reach the Viking Mountain (Camp Creek Bald) Road. Turn left and drive 2.5 miles on the paved road which soon turns into gravel. Park in the small area on your left at Low Gap. There are no signs present at Low Gap but there is a trailhead for Bullen Hollow climbing steeply on your left and a trailhead for Spruce Thicket which descends on a road on your right. There is an open area with parking for about 3 cars. Low Gap is located just before a sharp turn to the right.

The first part of this hike follows the Bullen Hollow Trail, and climbs steeply at first, drops for a short period, then climbs and drops again until you reach a junction with a Forest Service Road after about 2/3 of a mile. You will turn left on this road, then follow a fork immediately to the right. This is the trailhead for the Greene Mountain Trail and a sign was present at the time of this hike.

Follow this muddy, level section and after a total of a mile and a quarter you will pass a Forest Service gate with the Greene Mountain Trail turning left .2 past the gate. Follow the old road downhill and to the right. At the bottom of the hill you will reach the Trailhead for the Camp Creek Trail which breaks off the road to the left at mile 1.59. The remnants of Kennedy Cabin is just ahead. Not much is left of the cabin but a few pieces of the foundation and a spring. If you check out the cabin, turn around and take the trail downhill at the crossing of the small branch. Follow the Camp Creek Trail which is mostly downhill and very steep in places.

Watch the trail closely and be sure to take the left fork at any intersection you see as there are several old paths and roads that still exist. After covering about two and a half miles, the trail will come out of the greenery to a very exposed section of switchbacks reminiscent of the Bright Angel Trail at the Grand Canyon. There are wonderful views of the Camp Creek Community and Greene County along these switchbacks.

At the end of one of these switchbacks, there is also a good viewpoint for Camp Creek Falls, a 150 foot cascade, in the distance. Continue on the trail and reach an intersection after 3.5 miles with the remnants of a sign pointing to The Oaks campground here. Take the left fork and continue for .2 of a mile until you reach a manway coming in from the left. There is an old signpost on your right but the sign itself is missing.

Take the manway to the left and follow it for about a half mile past a sign for the Camp Creek Trail pointing back the way you came. You will see a homestead on your right. Continue straight ahead above the home on the remnants of an old road which deadends into a wide, dry creek bed. You should see a road and your vehicle ahead. Bushwhack either in or beside the dry creek a short distance to the parking lot.

SYNOPSIS OF HIKE

| Mile | Elevation | Description |
|------|-----------|--|
| 0 | 4024 | Trailhead for Bullen Hollow Trail at Low Gap. |
| .67 | 3925 | JCT old road. Turn left and Greene Mountain Trail is on Right. |
| 1.29 | 3958 | Pass Old Gate |
| 1.39 | 3980 | Greene Mountain Trail goes left. Continue on trail to right. |
| 1.59 | 3829 | Trailhead for Camp Creek Trail. Turn Left, downhill. |
| 3.4 | 2119 | Junction with Trail from right. Keep left. |
| 3.57 | 1998 | Junction with manway on left. Take the manway. |
| 4.16 | 1802 | Small Parking Lot. |

