

Trail 20: Spruce Flats Falls

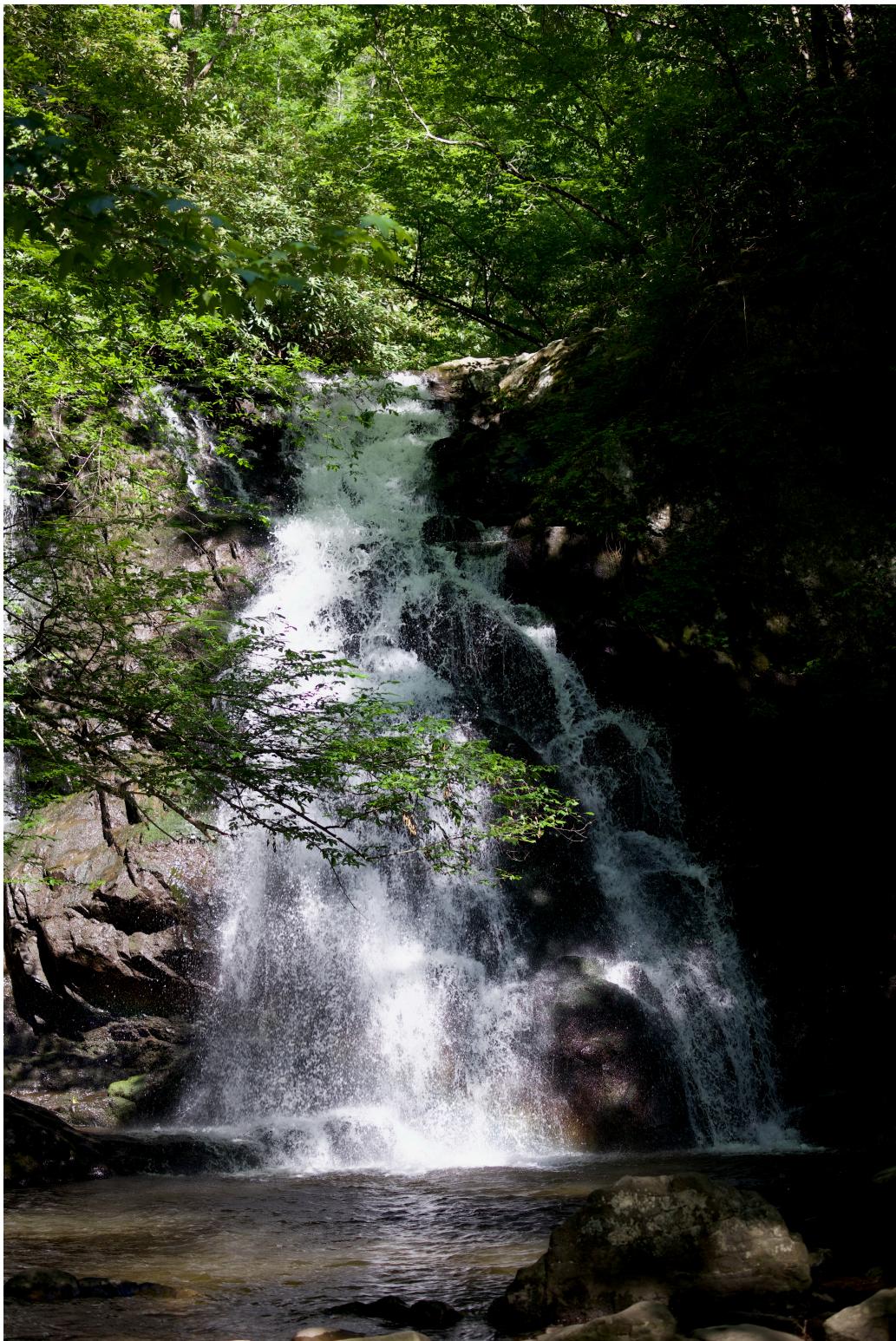
Key Characteristics

Trail Name	Spruce Flats Falls
Region	Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Trail #	20
Time Estimate - Hiking Fast	1.5 hours
Time Estimate - Hiking Slowly	2.5 hours
Trail Distance (Miles)	1.6
Elevation Change	Moderate
Pets	Not Allowed
Parking Pass/Entrance Fee	Required
Restroom(s)	Yes
Terrain	Dirt path; rocky path

(This map is being worked on stil)

Overview

An adventurous hike in the Smokies accessible to many families, it is also a great introduction to the Smokies, particularly when visiting from around Knoxville (it's fairly close). It's on the Great Smoky Mountains Institute site at Tremont, a national leader in outdoors and environmental education. It is the first hike in this section for a good reason. The proximity to Townsend is a bonus. Best for little kids and big kids.



Directions to the Trailhead

Trailhead Address	9275 Tremont Rd, Townsend, TN 37882
Trailhead GPS Coordinates	35.64000, -83.68905

The address and coordinates are for the Great Smoky Mountains Institute, as this is the easiest-to-locate destination. When nearly there (less than a quarter of a mile from the destination), you'll cross a bridge to enter the Institute. You'll see a lot of parking around — and the gift shop. Though the trailhead and Google Maps will navigate you a little further, the parking you see here is the best place to park. From this parking lot, walk up the road a little toward the Spruce Flats Falls Trailhead to start the hike.

Trail Description

Distance from Start	Description
0.0	You'll see signs for Spruce Flats Falls, but you'll begin ever-so-briefly on a different trail that connects to the trail you'll take to the falls, Buckeye Trail. Start on the Lumber Ridge Trail.
0.1	Turn right onto the Buckeye Trail, the trail you'll be on all the way to the falls (and back to this spot on the return journey).
0.15	Trail levels out before a steep climb.
0.3	Climb begins. It's a (good) challenge!
0.5	High point of the hike in a piney outcropping. Good photo spot. Begin to wind down toward the waterfall.
0.8	Spruce Flat Falls. A great snack or picnic spot. After a nice break, turn around the way you came.
1.6	Trailhead.

Nearby

- Stopping at the Tremont store. The gift store at Tremont (the full name is the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont) is usually open Monday – Friday from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

- Hiking the West Prong trail. This is a great nearby trail to a great picnic spot (at the site of Backcountry Site #18— across the road from the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont.
- Visiting Townsend. See Chestnut Tops trail for more detail.