

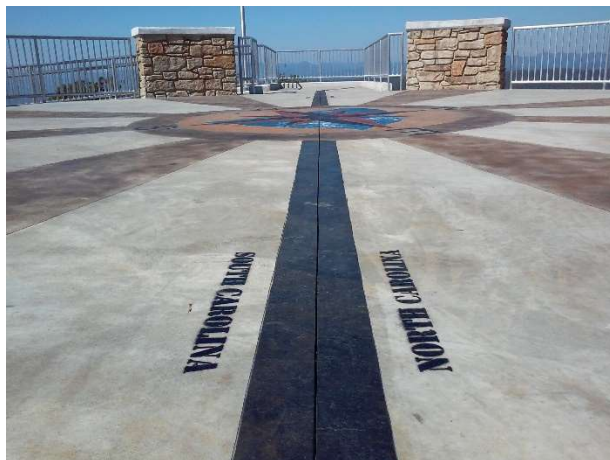
## **Sassafras Mountain, SC, 3,553 ft. – October 3, 2019, HP #25: On the Border**

October 3, fifteen minutes after midnight I caught a red-eye flight from Salt Lake City UT to Greenville SC via Charlotte NC. I arrived at 9:30 a.m. eastern daylight time and picked up a rental car. Before leaving Greenville I stopped to pick up a few groceries. Then drove directly to the South Carolina highpoint.

Sassafras Mountain is located on the border of North and South Carolina and is shared by both states. The portion in South Carolina raises to the highest natural point of the state. From the Greenville Airport to Sassafras Mountain is about a 150-miles.

I arrived at the parking lot located just below the summit at noon. About a city block length walk uphill from the parking stood the then newly opened (as of April 2019) elevated observation deck. The observation deck resides half in South Carolina and half in North Carolina. A black painted line across the concrete floor of the deck represents the shared border. Even the staircase to the top of the platform is evenly divided between the two states with a handrail down the middle. To the southeast of the platform on the South Carolina side a stone marker with a plaque claims the states high point. I knelt behind the stone marker with the summit tower behind me, posing for a photograph.

This mountain is named after the tree of the same name. The name is also associated with tea. Moreover the Aerosmith song “Love in an Elevator” mentions sassafras. Sassafras is one of the Blue Ridge Mountains which are part of the Appalachian Mountains. The eastern continental divide runs along the peak.



There was just one other person on the top when I arrived. He seemed to be using field glasses to observe birds in the sky. I attempted to be friendly, but he did not seem to want to chat. In addition to the black line, the cement floor of the deck is also painted with a compass rose showing the border of the Carolinas to run from the northwest to the southeast. At top the platform Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia can all be viewed. When looking into South Carolina a radio tower sits to the left of the observation deck. Next to the observation deck, on the grounded, I located a survey marker.

Nearby under some rocks I discovered a jar with a summit logbook inside. I signed the log indicating this to be the twenty fifth US state highpoint I had stood upon.

I had wandered up the main path from the parking lot, so for variety I opted to head down from the northwest, or opposite, side of the platform. This took me down a very short dirt path which turned south and dropped me off at the parking area.

I enjoy visiting South Carolina’s highest point, and the views it offered were wonderful. All the same this highpoint lacked a sense of achievement. Perhaps that can be attributed to the lack of physical effort needed to reach it, or maybe because not much adventure was involved in attaining it?



Photo Album: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/oMkjQfWqTyuCMjUv6>