

Hiking: 4 miles



Many hiking trails begin in Pine Grove Furnace State Park and continue into the surrounding Michaux State Forest. A cell phone can be useful for calling for help, but many sections of the park do not have cell phone coverage.

Appalachian Trail
1.4 miles in the park, 2,190 miles total | Easiest hiking in the park | Point-to-point trail | White blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, backpacking
Trailhead amenities: modern restrooms, potable water, picnic tables
See Appalachian National Scenic Trail section for more information.

Brickyard Trail
0.3 mile | Easiest hiking | Out-and-back trail | Yellow blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking
Trailhead amenities: modern restrooms, picnic tables
This short trail connects the Brickyard Day Use Area to the Organized Group Tenting Area. It also leads to the intersection of Creek Trail and Campground Trail.

Buck Ridge Trail
6 miles outside the park | Most difficult hiking | Point-to-point trail | Yellow blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking
This 6-mile trail through Michaux State Forest connects Kings Gap Environmental Education Center and Pine Grove Furnace State Park over challenging, rocky terrain. The trailhead and a small parking area are across from the park office.

Campground Trail
0.33 mile | Easiest hiking | Connector trail | Yellow blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking
This trail meanders through the trees and connects the Charcoal Hearth Campground to the Furnace Stack Day Use Area providing campers easy access to historic sites and the general store.

Creek Trail
0.5 mile | Easiest hiking | Out-and-back trail | Yellow blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking
The trail begins at the amphitheater and wraps around the campground. Hikers can see vernal ponds, Mountain Creek, and the historic furnace raceway.

Hiker Biker Trail
3.0 miles | Easiest hiking | Out-and-back trail | No blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, biking, cross-country skiing recommended
Trailhead amenities: modern restrooms, potable water, picnic tables
This ADA-accessible, family-friendly trail travels from the Furnace Stack, past Fuller Lake, to the Laurel Lake area. The trail overlaps the Appalachian Trail and Old

Railroad Bed Road. It provides access to multiple other trails in the park. Part of the trail is paved and part is gravel.

Koppenhaver Trail
1.0 mile | More difficult hiking | Loop trail | Yellow blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking
This scenic trail winds through many tall pines and hemlocks and passes by Toms Run and Mountain Creek. Remnants of the old girl scout camp can be seen on part of the trail.

Mountain Creek Trail
1.4 miles | Easiest hiking | Out-and-back trail | Yellow blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking
This trail is a link between the Hiker Biker Trail, Koppenhaver Trail, and Icehouse Road near Laurel Lake. The trail gives hikers an alternate path to Laurel Lake Day Use Area other than the paved roadway.
The trail meanders through forests and wetlands as it follows Mountain Creek downstream to Laurel Lake and provides easy access for trout fishing opportunities.

Pole Steeple Trail
0.75 mile outside the park | Most difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | Blue blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking
Accessed from Pole Steeple Parking Lot, this trail in Michaux State Forest is a short but steep climb to the top. The entire park can be viewed from Pole Steeple Overlook, which is a quartzite rock outcropping. The trail begins on the opposite side of Old Railroad Bed Road from Laurel Lake and proceeds up Piney Mountain to the rocky overlook.

The steep grade and sheer drop may stress some individuals. Parents are advised to closely supervise children, especially when they are on the rocks and ledges.

Swamp Trail
0.25 mile | Easiest hiking | Loop trail | Yellow blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking
Accessed from the Hiker Biker Trail, this short trail circles a small, forested swamp filled with interesting plants and animals.



Pole Steeple Overlook

Appalachian National Scenic Trail

Running through the heart of the park is one of the most famous footpaths in the world, the Appalachian Trail (AT). The approximately 2,190-mile-long trail traverses the Appalachian Mountains through 14 states, stretching as a continuous footpath from Springer Mountain in northern Georgia to Mt. Katahdin in central Maine.

HIKING
About 2 to 3 million people walk a portion of the AT each year. Pine Grove Furnace State Park is a popular access point for short-term backpacking and day hikes. The trail is marked with white blazes, which can be seen near the Pine Grove General Store, Appalachian Trail Museum, Fuller Day Use Area, and on the Hiker Biker Trail.
Boiling Springs to the north and Caledonia State Park to the south are each about a 20-mile hike from Pine Grove Furnace.
Overnight parking is available for backpackers in a marked section of the Furnace Stack parking lot. For safety, backpackers should check in at the park office to register their vehicle, supply contact information, and provide an itinerary.
The Ironmaster's Mansion serves as a hostel and provides dormitory-style lodging for AT hikers.
Information, maps, guides, shuttles, and more are available from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. www.appalachiantrail.org
HALFWAY POINT
Annually, about 4,000 people attempt to hike the entire AT. Long-distance hikers, called thru-hikers, pass through the park from late spring through the summer months. About one out of four thru-hikers will complete the whole trail. Reaching the park is a symbolic halfway milestone as the true halfway point lies several miles south of the park in Michaux State Forest.

To commemorate the completion of half of the journey, it is a thru-hiker tradition to attempt the "half-gallon challenge," eating one half gallon of ice cream in one sitting. On a summer day, it is common to see hikers working on the challenge at the Pine Grove General Store.
APPALACHIAN TRAIL MUSEUM
Near the midpoint of the AT, the Appalachian Trail Museum is between the Pine Grove General Store and Furnace Stack parking lot. Museum exhibits and programs pay tribute to the hikers and pioneer trail-builders for their commitment to conservation. The Children's Discovery Area provides interactive, hands-on learning experiences. The museum welcomes newcomer and veteran AT hikers, frequently offering the opportunity to meet current thru-hikers.
The museum is open seasonally. Check the website for hours of operation. Admission is free of charge, although donations are welcome. Parking for the museum is adjacent to the Furnace Stack Pavilion. 717-486-8126. www.atmuseum.org

