

Elkmont to Metcalf Bottoms

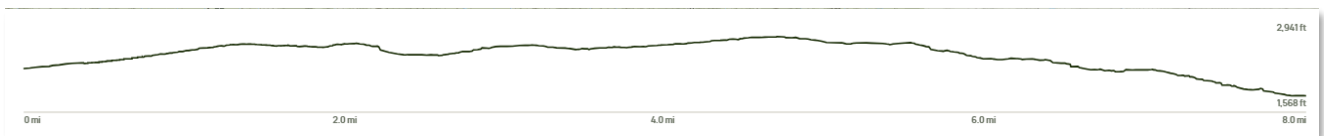
Point-To-Point

Jakes Creek, Stable, Meigs Mountain, and Curry Mountain Trails

Trail Map



Elevation Profile



Trailhead

From the Little River Road West from Gatlinburg, or East from Metcalf Bottom, turn into the Elkmont Campground. Follow the road toward the campground and turn left on the road just before the campground entrance. Continue across the Little River Bridge, drive through the lower parking area, up the hill and park in the upper parking area. The Jakes Creek Trail begins at the gated road at the South end of the parking area.

Waypoints

- 1) Leave the Jakes Creek Trail at the point where the trail sign points to the left. Continue instead on the road you have been following.
- 2) Directly across from the stable, follow the Manway to the point where the Meigs Mountain Trail comes in at a rock wall on your right. Turn sharp right on the Meigs Mountain Trail. (Note: If you come to a log bridge over Jakes Creek turn around, you passed the Meigs Mountain Trail.
- 3) Kings Branch Backcountry Campsite #20.
- 4) Cross Mannis Branch, the stream that forms the falls viewed from the Little River Road.
- 5) Curry Mountain Trail Junction, Turn Right.

Hike Description

This hike begins at the gated road at the west end of the upper parking lot adjacent to the collection of restored cabins in the Elkmont Community. As you begin your hike you will see a number of homesites where only chimneys remain, the structures having been demolished a few years ago by the park service. You will encounter one site on your right where the home is being restored.

After a gentle climb you will come to a fork in the road with the Jakes Creek Trail sign pointing to the left. **I encourage you to ignore the sign** and continue straight ahead. You will make a short decent, cross Jakes Creek on a bridge and begin a gentle climb. Stay on this road (I call it the Stable Trail). It will take you back to the old stables where the park kept horses when rangers patrolled the backcountry on horseback (something else the park no longer does). When you get to the stable the road makes a loop. Take the left fork and look for a manway to the left that will parallel Jakes Creek on your left. You will very quickly come to a small rock wall on your right, and a trail sign pointing at the Meigs Mountain Trail coming in on your right. Turn on the Meigs Mountain Trail. Prior to the coming of the National Park there was a home, barn and springhouse on this level area.

Over the next two miles you will encounter a number of old home sites as evidenced by rock walls, collapsed chimney stacks, and various household items left behind (please avoid the temptation to *collect* anything. There used to be far more). At about 1.5 miles into your hike, at the top of a short climb, an old road turns to your right and heads downhill. You will then proceed downhill to Backcountry Campsite #20. Before the park, this campsite had been a garden, orchard, and the location of bee gums (bee hives made from sections of hollowed out logs).

Just beyond the campground, at about 2.5 miles, you will cross two streams. After the second stream look for assorted metal objects that may be left from a tractor. You will then begin a gentle climb toward the Curry Mountain Trail Junction. At 3.5 miles into your hike, about halfway to the Curry Mountain Trail, you will cross Mannis Creek (Waypoint 4). This is the stream that creates the impressive waterfall, Mannis Branch Falls, visible from a pull-off on the Little River Road.

At about the 4.5-mile mark in your hike you will reach the junction with the Curry Mountain Trail. Before you make the turn, however, you may want to continue another 0.2 miles to a spur trail on the right that leads to a cemetery. Most of the stones are unmarked, but several are for members of the Huskey family. As you return to the Curry Mountain Trail junction, recall that the trail you have been hiking is an old road, built and maintained by early settlers. Near this junction was the farm consisting of two homes, a barn, a spring house, and a chicken Coop.

Turn onto the Curry Mountain Trail for the last leg of your hike to Metcalf Bottoms. Initially you will hike the East shoulder of Curry She Mountain, a fairly level hike. There will be several observation points (more in fall, winter, and spring) where you will be able to see the Meigs Mountain Ridge that you have just hiked as well as Mt. LeConte in the distance. At 5.3 miles the trail will turn sharply to the left and begin its decent around the East shoulder of Curry He Mountain. As you hike Cove Mountain and the Cove Mountain Ridge extending down to the Sugarlands Visitors Center will be visible. Toward the end of your descend toward Metcalf Bottoms you will begin to hear traffic on the Little River Road. You may also be able to see the weather station on top of Cove Mountain from several openings.

Comments

This is a moderate to easy hike with gentle elevation changes. There is an abundance of wildflowers in the spring, good fall color, and some very impressive winter views, especially on the Curry Mountain Trail. A similar hike,

Elkmont to The Sinks, would add about 2 miles to your hike, but would also require you to make numerous wet stream crossings on the Meigs Creek Trail. I comment on that trail in my Tremont to The Sinks hike.

Photos

The photos below are from multiple hikes and possibly contributed by more than one hiker.



Meigs Mountain Trail Sign at the wall along the manway from the Stable.



Some of the parts at the ...



Meigs Mountain Trail straight ahead, stone wall leading to tree, manway from stable on the right.



Remains of a well.



Daffodils, clear signs of former home site. Definitely not native wildflowers...



Someone also lived here. The rockwork is what's left of a fireplace and chimney.



Curry Mountain Trail Junction



View from trail on East flank of Curry She Mountain



Looks like the rock has been well protected by the tree...