

John Oliver Cabin Hike

Out & Back on Rich Mountain Loop Trail

Possible side trail to Crooked Arm Cascade

Hike Description

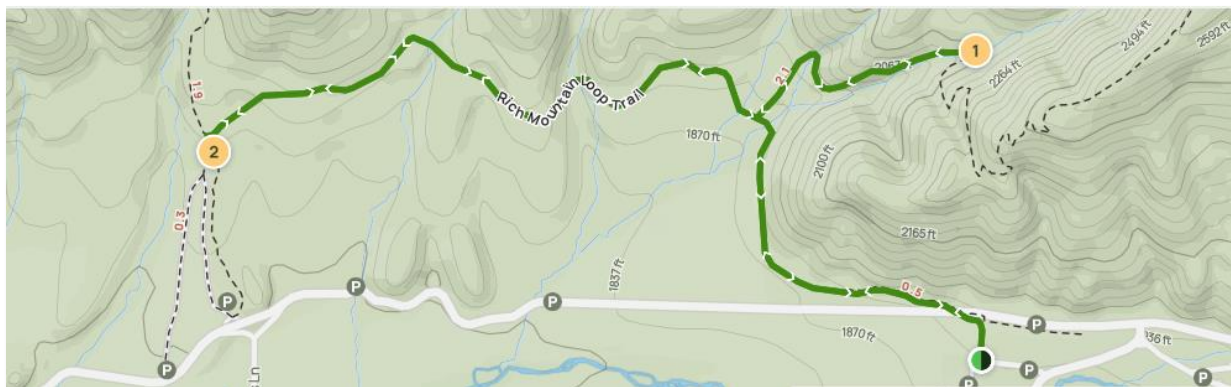
The trailhead is in the parking area at the beginning of the Cades Cove Motor Loop. Walk to the west end of the parking area where the Cades Cove Loop Road begins. Cross the road and begin the hike at the Rich Mountain Loop Trail sign. The total out & back length of the hike, including the short hike to the Crooked Arm Cascade is 3.6 miles. There are no steep climbs, though there is a modest climb on the short side trail to the Crooked Arm Cascade. Also, in spring and following significant rain you are likely to encounter a few wet crossings over small branches as you hike to the cabin.

About ½-mile into your hike you will come to the Crooked Arm Branch. Immediately after you cross the stream the Crooked Arm Ridge trail junction is on your right. From here it is a short hike with a modest climb to a point on the trail from which you can view the Crooked Arm Cascade, one of the least seen cascades in the park.

(Note: when you cross the Crooked Arm Branch if there is little or no water in the branch, don't bother with the side trail to Crooked Arm Cascade. It simply will not be worth the effort.)

John Oliver and his wife Lurena were the first permanent European settlers in Cades Cove. They arrived in the cove in 1818 and built the John Oliver cabin in 1821. By 1850, the population in the Cove had grown to over 650 (and still growing). In addition to the cabins, most homesite also had a spring house, corn crib, smoke house, and barn. Root cellars and other structures were also common.

Trail Map



Elevation Profile



Waypoints

- 1) Crooked Arm Cascade. A short side trail to one of the least visited cascades in the park.
- 2) John Oliver Cabin. (This is not the original Oliver Cabin. This is the “Honeymoon Cabin” built for their son, Elijah. See the [Cades Cove Hiking & Driving Loop](#).)