

# Margarette Falls

1.65 Miles One Way - Strenuous - Elevation Gain 701 Feet

Rocky, Muddy Footpath - Hiking Trail Only - 1 Creek Crossing

This trail has been partially relocated and has a newly installed metal bridge.

Hiked May 29, 2011

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*Directions to Trailhead:* Leave Greeneville on McKee Street which becomes The Jones Bridge Road. Drive approximately 5 miles from town, cross the Nolichucky River, until you reach the intersection with Highway 107 at the Crossroads Service Station and Hardware. Drive straight through the intersection on the Greystone Road and follow the signs. Turn right on Shelton Mission and drive about 2 miles to the Margarette Falls Parking Lot.

Park at the large parking lot next to Shelton Mission Road, walk through the gate and approximately .6 miles up a fairly level, gravel road until a junction with the Bullen Hollow Trail is reached. Bullen Hollow is on your immediate right and climbs very steeply up the side of a ridge. The Margarette Falls Trail goes to the left and climbs gently at first.



After covering about .85 of a mile, you will cross a newly installed metal bridge that leads to a recently relocated section of the trail that has been covered with very large rocks making walking a little uncomfortable. At mile 1.3 you will reach a creek crossing that can be rock hopped at normal water levels. The trail at this point has several small rocks which must be climbed but should not be difficult for most hikers. The trail becomes steeper here and usually has some muddy sections. After the final crossing, the trail becomes more level, and a large monolith called Cathedral Rock, will be passed at mile 1.5. Margarette Falls will be reached after hiking 1.65 miles and climbing 700 feet. It is one the area's premier waterfalls and is especially beautiful during a period of higher water. The falls is usually slippery around the bottom and care should be taken. Do Not Climb on the Falls. Several serious injuries and expensive rescue efforts have resulted from people attempting to climb Margarette Falls.

## SYNOPSIS OF HIKE

| Mile | Elevation | Description                        |
|------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| 0    | 1911      | Trailhead on Shelton Mission Road. |
| .56  | 2123      | JCT with Bullen Hollow Trail.      |
| .85  | 2291      | Metal Bridge                       |
| 1.3  | 2474      | Creek Crossing                     |
| 1.5  | 25822     | Cathedral Rock                     |
| 1.65 | 2612      | Margarette Falls                   |

