

PAINT CREEK TRAIL

5 Mile Round Trip - In in/out hike with a loop at the end.

Moderate Hike with several short climbs and descents

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Directions to Trailhead: Drive from the city limits of Greenville toward Asheville, NC on SR70 locally called the Asheville Highway. From the last traffic light in town near McDonalds, drive 11.1 miles and turn right on the Rollins Chapel Road. Continue for 1.2 miles and turn left on the Lower Paint Creek Road. There will be a sign just before the turn. Follow Lower Paint Creek for for 1.7 miles until you cross a small bridge with the Paint Creek Campground on your left. Turn right and park in the large parking lot on next to the creek, known as Moses Turn.

Leave the parking lot on a small path and climb up next to the bridge and cross it on the road. The trailhead is on the immediate right at the end of the bridge. The first part of the trail climbs steeply and circles Paint Creek with the campground below. After .2 miles you will pass an intersection with the trailhead of the Paint Mountain Trail which goes to the left

9.2 miles to Weaver's Bend. Continue straight here and continue circling the campground. After you have covered a half mile you will intersect with a spur trail leading steeply downward to a bridge at the back of the campground. If you wish to do only a short hike, you can take this trail back to the parking lot.

For the hike in this description, you will take the left fork at the intersection and continue to the end of the Paint Creek Trail. Upon your return, you will turn left at this intersection, hike down the spur trail and cross the bridge into the campground and cross the road into the parking lot.

This section of the Paint Creek Trail follows the bank of the very scenic branch for nearly two miles before the creek is crossed again. You will alternate following just beside the water, then climbing and descending steeply where the creekbed is close to a steep bank. None of the climbs are long but they are rocky and narrow in places and great care should be taken as some of them are very high above the stream bed.

After covering nearly a mile and a half, you will reach an intersection of an old forest service road. Take the right here and continue to climb over a rocky area. The trail drops to the floodplain of the creek again and the wide roadbed is again encountered for a long pleasant section ending at a large wooden bridge at mile 2.34. The trail technically ends here but you can continue along a manway for another quarter mile until an unbridged crossing is reached.

The Paint Creek Trail formerly continued for another mile reaching the trailhead of the Little Paint Creek Trail which climbs for over two more miles to intersect with the Appalachian Trail at Deep Gap. The flood of 2001 washed away the bridges on this section, but hopefully the trail will be restored at some point.

For this hike, just return to the parking lot by the same route until the spur trail is reached again. Take the left and descend steeply, then cross the bridge, walk through the campground and cross the road to the parking lot.

SYNOPSIS OF HIKE

Mile	Elevation	Description
0	1798	Parking Lot at Moses Turn
.2	1828	Junction with Paint Mountain Trailhead.
.56	1899	Junction with spur trail back to campground.
1.72	2099	Junction with old roadbed.
2.34	1949	Wooden bridge.
2.6	1951	Temporary end of trail.

