

BEAR COVE and OCONEE BELLS NATURE TRAIL in DEVIL'S FORK STATE PARK



Bear Cove offers dazzling views of Lake Jocassee from the loop end of this moderately hilly, less well developed trail. From the kiosk, descend into a mixed forest that includes dogwood, black cherry, red maple, oak, pine and, along creeks, more Oconee Bells. Outbound keep left, then loop clockwise back from the point. Depending on lake level, it is often possible to walk the shoreline for much of the return. Inland, watch for a sign directing you to the left which ends the loop and continues back to the parking area. Elevation gain is only a few hundred feet.

DIRECTIONS: (GPS: 34.9519, -82.9455)

Meet for a 9AM start at the Devils Fork State Park office parking area. From KKEPA go 11 mi Non SC130, 1.6 E on SC11, then 4 Non Jocassee Lake and Devils Fork Rds, following signs to the park entrance.

There is a small fee for those without an SC parks pass. There are restrooms at the park office. Expect to return about 2:30PM.

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DESCRIPTION: This outing combines a pleasant walk and a mostly easy hike for a 4 mile total trek. First, do the one mile Oconee Bells Nature Trail...a winding loop through hardwoods that hug a stream burgeoning with the County's iconic, endangered, namesake spring flower. A small pond adds interest. The well marked, well maintained trail starts from the rear of the park office. On completion, relocate cars to the parking lot on the west side of the park entrance road. Bear Cove Trail begins there.

