

BLUE RIDGE RR and ISSAQUEENA FALLS at Stumphouse Park



DESCRIPTION This mostly easy hike visits the unfinished, 19th century rail bed and tunnels of the Blue Ridge Railroad. Start just above Issaqueena Falls and wind uphill through an impressive rock canyon. Continue through mature forest on the old RR bed. About a half mile in, a short uphill spur to the left accesses the remains of Middle Tunnel. No longer deep, it can be entered by crawling. Return to the main trail, go left and continue about a mile to the third, now flooded, Saddleback Tunnel. Continue uphill to an intersecting dirt road and go left for another mile or so and past the rear access, now buried, of Middle Tunnel. Return from there for a pleasant five mile outing with only a few hundred feet of elevation gain.



Lunch at picnic tables or the gazebo in the park, and visit Issaqueena Falls (within 200 yds of the parking area). Stumphouse tunnel is also a must see...with flashlight. Unfortunately, most of its 1617ft length is now blocked by an interior gate. An undeveloped path to the right of the tunnel entry winds above the tunnel past some worker graves, now obscure, and the tunnel vent shaft.

DIRECTIONS (GPS: 34.807781, -83.121594) Meet and pool as usual. Depart KKEPA at 8:30 and/or Walhalla at 9AM. Stumphouse Tunnel Park is on the right side of SC28 just 6 miles NW of Walhalla. There are facilities in the park near the tunnel. Fee per vehicle is \$2. Expect to return by 2P.

UPDATED Jun 2017