

RAVEN CLIFF FALLS RAVEN CLIFF FALLS and GUM GAP in CAESAR'S HEAD STATE PARK



DESCRIPTION: Raven Cliff Falls in Caesar's Head State Park, SC, at 400ft tall is one of the most photogenic in the Mountain Bridge Wilderness Area. Most of the 2.2 mile Gum Gap trail from the parking area on US276 to the observation platform is also the Foothills Trail. All is well developed, blazed, and on easy to moderate terrain. Direct return from the platform makes for an easy 4.4 mile hike.

Most hikers will back track about 0.75 miles, rejoin the FT, and continue about 1.5 miles on mostly moderate terrain to the junction with the western end of Naturaland Trust Trail. Follow Naturaland down steeper, partially staired terrain for about 0.25 miles to the swinging bridge above Matthews Creek. The bridge provides nice views back to the observation platform. The trail continues but becomes very difficult. Instead, lunch on, or by the rapids, under the bridge and return via Gum Gap/FT for a total hike of 8 miles.

DIRECTIONS (GPS: 35.11566, -82.63831)

Depart from the US11/178 Mart at Holly Springs at 915A. That requires leaving KKEPA by 845 OR go directly to Holly. From Holly, go 11 mi NE on SC11, 1 W on SC8, and then 8 N on SC276 (past the ranger station). Parking and trail head are on the right. There are rest rooms at the station; none beyond. Access requires a park pass per car or fee per passenger. Expect to return by 330 PM.

UPDATED Jul 2017

