

HAWKINS-LAUREL HAWKINS & LAUREL VALLEY FALLS via Foothills Trail

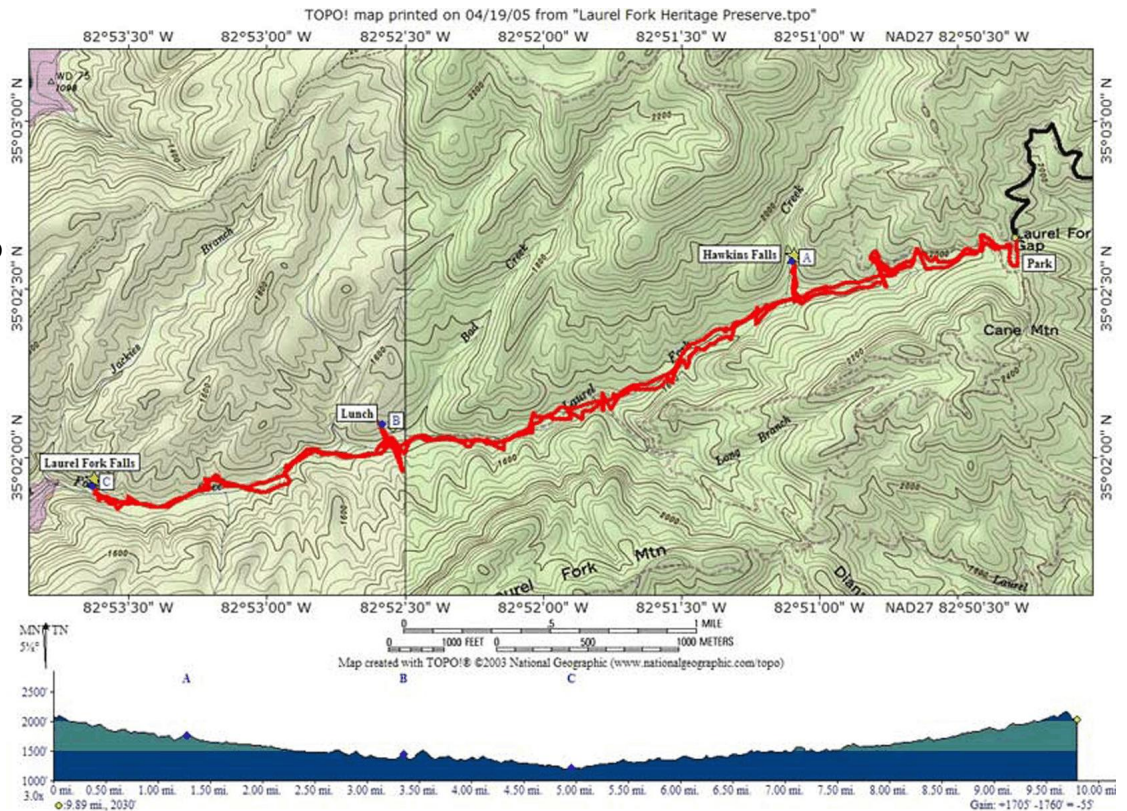


DESCRIPTION

This fine hike offers multiple viewing pleasures: two beautiful falls, bold streams with seven bridged crossings, and lots of spring wild flowers. It's about 8.5 easy to moderate miles with an elevation gain of about 1000ft. Start behind the sign for Laurel Fork Heritage Preserve, then go left, down stairs to a gravel roadway. Go right, following it on down about a mile, across a creek IN the roadway, to a sign for Hawkins Falls, leading right. Follow for about a quarter mile, across a bridge, and up to the falls. Return downstream keeping to the right when approaching the roadway. Cross another bridge then follow the trail which skirts and winds across Laurel Fork for about 3 miles...past a camp on the left, rock wall to the right, and sign on the left signaling the vantage for Laurel Fork Falls emptying into Lake Jocassee.

DIRECTIONS (GPS: 35.048192, -82.833911)

Gather at the Holly Springs (SC11 & US178) in time for a 915A departure. This requires leaving KKEPA by 845 or Walhalla by 830. From Holly Springs head 8 mi NW on US 178 across Rocky Bottom Bridge, then quick, sharp left uphill PAST the FT access and parking, continuing 3.6 miles further on the gravel Horsepasture Rd. There are no fees and no facilities beyond Holly. Expect to return about 330PM.



UPDATED Jul 2017