

RABUN BALD RABUN BALD from Beegum Gap



DESCRIPTION: At 4696 feet, Rabun Bald is the second highest point in Georgia. From the old fire tower atop the summit, there are grand vistas in all directions. Start this loop trail at Beegum Gap choosing the rocky road bed on the left. The trail climbs quickly into a pine and hardwood forest with scattered rhododendron. It's a constant climb for about 0.75 mi where it joins the yellow blazed Bartram Trail. Take a right at this intersection. A half mile further, the trail meets the alternate path from the trailhead... a good place to pause before the final half mile ascent to the tower. Now above 4000 ft, the forest becomes scrubby and weather beaten. The tower platform is lined with benches...fine for lunch and photos. On the return, back track a half mile and take the left roadway for different, more developed, ridge views. At less than 3.5 total miles and 1000ft of gain the terrain is difficult outbound, easy return, overall moderate. On the return drive, we often visit Laurel "Wife said no" Falls and continue along the connecting lake trail and a bit beyond. This will add another two, mostly easy, miles. It's in and out, so hikers can do as much or little as desired.

DIRECTIONS (GPS: 34.971108, -83.302528)

Meet, pool, and depart as usual from KKEPA at 830 and/or Walhalla at 9AM. From Walhalla, go 1 mile NW on SC28, then 6.6 miles left on S Maple/Coffe, then 1 mile (right) on Bolt Rd. 31 miles N (right) on US76, 8 miles N (right) on US441, 4 NE (right) on GA106/246 for 4, 3 E (right) on Old Mud/Bald Mtn, and 1 S (sharp right) on Kelsey Mtn to the road end. Parking is limited in this neighborhood. There are no fees and no facilities after Walhalla. Expect to return around 3:30PM.

UPDATED Sept 2018

