

SASSAFRAS SASSAFRAS MOUNTAIN from CHIMNEY GAP via FOOTHILLS TRAIL



DESCRIPTION

The excellent view from Sasfras Mountain, the highest point in SC, has been enhanced with an observation platform and plans for a mighty tower. We access via 3 miles of the Foothills Trail (FT), starting from Chimney Top Gap, on Sasfras Mountain Rd about two miles north of Rocky Bottom. From the parking area, walk toward the Chimney Top Gap Kiosk. The trail for this hike starts on the opposite side of the road. Outbound, we climb about 1000 ft on mostly moderate terrain with a few, short, easy and difficult sections. A mid-way overlook from a short spur to a nice rockery previews the destination. About 2 miles into the hike, the trail crosses another road and continues on the other side. Go a bit past the summit to see the observation platform. Lunch on the 3554ft summit. The return 3 mi is all downhill.

DIRECTIONS (GPS: 35.0634196, -82.7988300)

Gather at the Holly Springs Mart (SC11 & US178) in time for a 915AM departure from there. This requires leaving KKEPA by 845AM. From there we head northeast on US178 for 7.2 miles to Rocky Bottom, then bear right on Van Clayton/Sasfras Mountain Rd continuing for about 2 miles. Look for the Kiosk and FT signs. Park just down the road on the left. Space is limited so do your best to car pool. There are no fees and no potties. Expect to return about 230P.

UPDATED Oct 2017

