

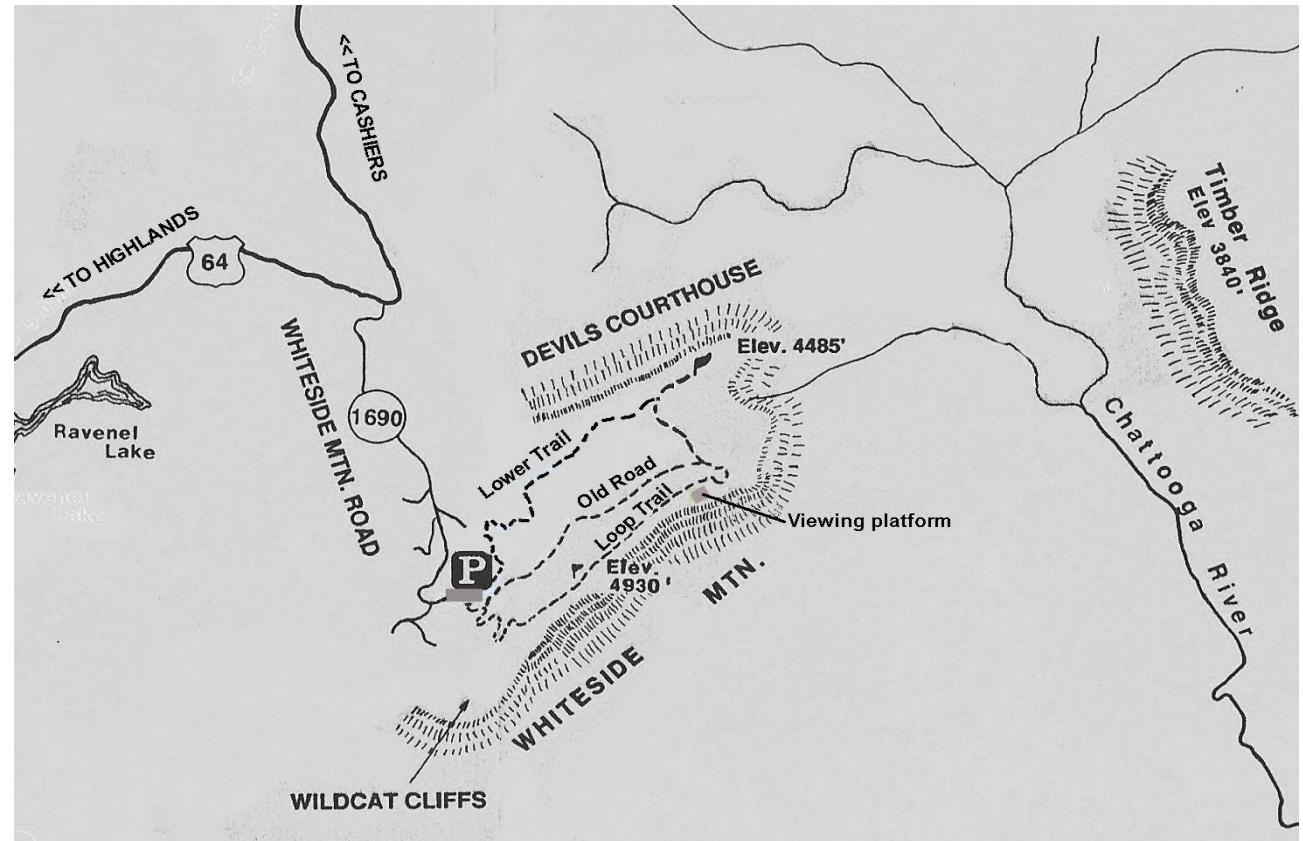
# WHITESIDE MOUNTAIN and DEVIL'S COURTHOUSE in NC, a National Park Recreation Area



**DESCRIPTION:** This 4 mile, easy to difficult hike offers spectacular vistas, rocky balds, and an alpine garden. Whiteside is well developed and heavily used. Starting behind the kiosk, the trail climbs almost continuously 500 ft to the 4930 ft summit. In route, explore short spurs to several overlooks, then enjoy continuous vistas from the ridge. At the western end, hikers can return directly to the parking area by following the old roadbed downhill, completing a two plus mile loop, OR, continue on to Devil's Courthouse.

Best done with an experienced guide, the Courthouse is a rough, damp, overgrown, and unmarked...a moderate to difficult loop. Keep left and wind down to the gap, then cross and climb to the bald...a fine spot for lunch. Enjoy views to Yellow Mountain and back to Whiteside. Caution! Shear cliffs and no guard rails here! The descent and climb is comparable to Whiteside's 500ft, but done twice. On the return, go right at the gap, then take the first left, and after choose the more downhill trail at subsequent junctions. Cross, or bypass the logs, across a small waterfall, then continue on back to the rear of the parking lot. The Courthouse adds another two miles and an hour to the trek.

**DIRECTIONS:** (GPS: 35.080417, -83.144139)  
Gather, pool, and depart at 830A from EITHER KKEPA or Walhalla and proceed to Sloan Bridge Picnic Recreation Area. From KKEPA go 19mi N on SC13/SC130/NC281, then 2 W on Wigington, and 0.2 N on SC107. From Walhalla, go 8mi N on SC28, and 14 N on SC107. From SBPA go 9.3mi N on SC107, 5 W on US64, and 1.3 S on Whiteside Mtn Rd. Watch for brown park sign at this junction. There are potties at Sloan and at the trail head. Use a National Parks pass for free entry or pay \$2 fee per vehicle. Expect to return to Sloan by 230PM.



UPDATED May 2017