

## WINDING STAIRS and MIUKA FALLS in route to CHERRY HILL



DESCRIPTION: Miuka is a beautiful 75-foot waterfall, unfortunately difficult to view except via a poorly marked, steep scramble to its base...and then by a risky venture part way into its wash. Partial viewing is possible, with less risk, nearer to its top. The 7 mile round trip hike, beginning from the southern trailhead on Winding Stair Road (FS710) is, however, a nice ascent..especially with fall color...past the Falls on up to Cherry Hill Recreation Area...a good place for lunch on picnic tables there. Eased by switch backs, the 1000ft climb outbound is mostly gradual and steady.. About mid way up, watch for the spur to the Falls at the bend of the second hairpin. An added option, usually offered on the easy return leg, is a one third mile spur below Miuka to Secret Falls. Smaller than Miuka, it is also difficult to view, and is well named for the vague, unmarked, steep path to it. Watch for the sometimes flagged spur to it.. Head downhill, and bear right. Follow the sound of the creek, then follow it upstream.

DIRECTIONS: (GPS: 34.922325, -83.077492)  
Gather, pool, and depart as usual from KKEPA at 830AM and/or Walhalla at 9A.  
Go 7.5 miles NW on SC28, bear right onto SC 107. Go another 5.8 miles, then right onto FS710, variously named: Cheohee/Winding Stairs/Tamassee Rd  
Continue 2.5 miles on gravel to a small parking area and trailhead on the left, just prior to a bridge across Townes Creek.  
Facilities are sometimes open at Cherry Hill; otherwise none after Walhalla.  
No fees. Expect to return by 230PM.

UPDATED Jul 2017

