



# BIG SOUTH FORK



Distance	170 miles from Vanderbilt
Directions	Take I-40 East out of Nashville to the first Crossville Exit (318). Here, turn left onto US 127 North. In the town of Hugarth, take TN 154 North until you reach TN 297. At this junction, turn right onto TN 297 East and drive to the Bandy Creek Visitor Center. Bandy Creek will provide the camper or river runner with hiking maps, campsite locations, water levels, mountain bike trail maps and other general information about the park. In order to reach the northern KY section of the park, continue on TN 297 East past Bandy Creek Visitor Center to the US 27 junction at Oneida. Turn left and proceed north. Three roads turn left off of US 27 into Big South Fork. In order of appearance, they are: KY 742 junction in Revelo, KY leading to the Blue Heron Mining Community; KY 92 junction in Stearns, KY leading to Yamacrow Bridge; and KY 700 junction in Whitley City leading to Yahoo Falls.
Description	The Big South Fork of the Cumberland River, the heart of the Big South Fork National River, and Recreation Area, flows through a canyon that reaches depths up to 600 feet in places. Because this river has many whitewater rapids, it is a great place for advanced level kayaking or whitewater canoeing. Angel Falls, Devils Jump, and the “Big Three” which ends with “The El” are some of the best of these rapids. Other natural highlights include natural arches, walk-behind waterfalls, panoramic overlooks, chimney rocks, dome rockhouses, caves, natural bridges, lakes, streams, numerous wildflowers, and interesting walkways through “Crack-in-the-Rock.” If the natural highlights are not enough, Big South Fork also offers the hiker several historic landmarks such as Oscar Blevins Farm, Clara Sue Blevins House, John Litton Cabin, Jake’s Place, the Rugby House, and the Blue Heron Mining Community. Other attractions include the John Muir Trail and nearby Pickett State Rustic Park and Honey Creek Pocket Wilderness. Over a hundred miles of trails and dirt roads allow access to these many attractions. Finally, Big South Fork offers horseback riding and has established two mountain biking trails.
Campsites	Campsites are located next to the Bandy Creek Visitor Center on TN 297. They are also located at Alum Ford, Blue Heron, and Pickett State Rustic Park. Blue Heron and Bandy Creek campsites offer modern sites complete with restrooms and showers. A station camp is located on the river just below the John Litton Cabin. Charit Creek Lodge, located in the middle section is a favorite place for horseback riders who can leave their horses in the large barn set apart from the central complex. Reservations here are needed, however. Other campsites are located throughout the park as well. Information on these campsites can be found at the Bandy Creek Center.
Cautions	Stream crossings, steep ascents and descents, narrow ledge crossings, ladders, high bluffs and cliffs, mudholes, stairs, swinging bridges, marshy areas, and poison ivy can all be found within the Big South Fork. Also be careful, if you plan to swim in the river. The swift, rapid water can carry a swimmer into dangerous, even fatal situations more quickly than one might think. Finally, BRING INSECT REPELLENT!
For More Information	Consult <u><a href="#">The Best of the Big South Fork</a></u> by Russ Manning and Sondra Jamieson. You can also write Big South Fork NRA, Park Superintendent, PO Drawer 630, Oneida, TN 37841.