



GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS

- Distance** 220 miles from Vanderbilt to the Sugarland Visitor Center
- Directions** Take I-40 East towards Knoxville. Use Exit 407, and turn right onto US 321/441. Follow this road through Sevierville and Pigeon Forge. In Gatlinburg, look for US 441 and continue on it into the Smokies. The Sugarland Visitor Center is on the right once you are in the park. This is a great place to stop for more information.
- Hiking** There are over 900 miles of trails in the Great Smokies. With such a huge number of miles, the hiker can expect to find a trail for every level of difficulty as well as a variety of hiking surfaces (paved to steep mountain trails). Hikers should come prepared for different weather conditions (bring a light poncho) and should wear comfortable shoes with good tread. Along the trails visitors can find waterfalls, rushing streams, coves, and balds.
- Campsites** The Great Smoky Mountains National Park offers both developed (frontcountry) camping and backcountry camping. Backcountry campers need to have a free permit and most campsites and shelters require reservations. Campers are advised to do their camping in the spring and autumn months due to the peak season of the summer months. Arrive early and find your site on arrival to the park or use the Park's reservation system. Three campgrounds take reservations: Elkmont, Smokemont, and Cades Cove. All others are on a first come, first serve basis. There is no hot water and no showers in the park.
- For More Information** Find the Smokey web site for further details plus other outdoor attractions at www.gorp.com. For reservations of campsites call 1-800-365-CAMP. Outdoor Rec. has more information about the Smokies in books like Scenic Drives and Wildflower Walks in the Great Smokies (Knoxville Garden Club, 1990) and Hiking the Great Smokies (Swensen, 1962) to name a few. Outdoor Rec. can also provide you with some information about the backcountry of the Smokies.