Distance

177 miles from Vanderbilt

Directions

Take I-40 east from Nashville to Exit 347 for US Highway 27 and south to Spring City. Then turn left onto Tennessee Highway 68 and then turn left onto Shut-In Gap Road. Follow Shut-In Gap Road to the Newby Branch Forest Camp.

Description

The 10-mile Piney River Trail is located in Piney River Tree Farm, the largest Bowater Recreation Complex. Piney River Tree Farm includes Piney River Picnic Area, Piney River Trail, Stinging Fork Falls Pocket Wilderness, Newby Branch Forest Camp, and Twin Rocks Trail. Piney River Trail was dedicated as a national recreation trail in 1978 when 230 people registered for the dedication hike. Afterward, they received official trail patches.

Campsites

Two campsites around this trail include the Newby Branch Forest Camp (at the start of the trail) and the Logging Camp (a little over five miles into the trail).

Hiking

This trail has a rating of “easy.” It is described as pleasant and enjoyable, as it follows creeks with cascades, goes past old mining operations, and traces over several suspension bridges. One bridge is as high as 102 feet. The entire course is ten miles in length. The best way to hike this trail is to start at Newby Branch Forest Camp and end at the Piney River Picnic Area. Along the trail, in the river, are swimming and fishing opportunities as well.

For More Information