

Favorite Upstate hiking trails:

Yellow Branch Falls, Stumphouse State Park, Walhalla

3 miles (round trip) | (864) 638-4343

This moderately difficult trail leads to the base of a spectacular 50-foot vertical cascade. It passes through groves of dignified hardwoods and meandering creek bottoms.

The incline isn't very tough, just rolling hills. In the winter when trees are bare, you can see the Walhalla area as you hike. Wear sturdy shoes and use extra caution during wet conditions, as this trail skirts the edges of deep ravines. Conversely, if it hasn't rained for some time, the falls may be just a trickle of water over a series of ledges.

Pinnacle Mountain Trail, Table Rock State Park, Pickens

3.3 miles (one way) | (864) 878-9813

This is a fairly strenuous trail. Before starting, register at the Nature Center. Pinnacle Mountain is an adventurous trail with downed trees and rocky passes. Mills Creek Falls and Mills Creek Pass Trail are visible during the hike. Bald Rock lies further up the trail. Greenville is visible in the distance on a clear day. The Pinnacle Trail continues uphill toward the left on a less trodden trail. Hikers can return the same way they came or take the less strenuous Ridge Trail to the Table Rock Trail. This leads back to the Nature Center.

Natural Bridge Trail, Keowee-Toxaway State Natural Area, Sunset

1.5-mile loop | (864) 868-2605

The trail is marked with tree tags. This hike features lots of wildflowers, mountain laurel, some wildlife and the natural bridge over Poe Creek. It is fairly steep in a few sections and will be very slippery in the fall and after it rains.

Caesars Head and Raven Cliff Falls, Greenville County

Various lengths | (864) 836-6115

Caesars Head provides a panoramic view of nearby valleys, Table Rock and the Pinnacle Mountains, and other distant peaks of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Raven Cliff Falls, situated along one of the park's many hiking trails, is one of the highest waterfalls in the eastern United States.

Raven Cliff is a 2-mile hike to a set of high falls that are viewed from an observation deck at the end of the trail. The deck faces the falls, where they cascade down the mountain across from the end of the trail. The hiking trail passes through rough woods with rare rhododendron and wildflowers, with long distance views of the South Carolina foothills below. Located near the North Carolina state line.

Foothills Trail, Table Rock State Park, Pickens

Various lengths | (864) 467-9537

This is an 80-mile footpath extending from Table Rock State Park at its eastern terminus to Oconee State Park in the west. Its route takes hikers through the heart of the Jocassee Gorges tract, to mountain crests with scenic views, to shady gorges and coves with special botanical features. Along its route

the Foothills Trail crosses or follows most of the major streams and rivers of the Jocassee Gorges and adjacent conservation lands including Eastatoe Creek, Laurel Fork Creek, Toxaway River, Horse Pasture River, Bearcamp Creek, Thompson River, Whitewater River, East Fork Creek and Chattooga River, among others. The Foothills Trail Conference coordinates activities associated with the Foothills Trail.

Indian Creek Trail, Issaquena Lake, Clemson

.9 mile long

This trail includes a double creek crossing. There is plenty of uphill climbing involved. The recreation area is on S.C. Hwy. 133, north of Clemson.

