

Brasstown Bald -Highest Point in Georgia

Description:

You can see forever from the summit (on a clear day) but even if you couldn't it's a really nice place to visit. It is the highest point in Georgia at 4,784 feet above sea level.

The visitor center (located at the summit) is very nicely done. The exhibits give a glimpse into the natural and human history of the Southern Appalachians - including the Cherokee Indians that lived in this area. During the hours the visitor center is open (10 AM to 5 PM daily) there is a shuttle from the parking lot to the top.

Notes for the photographer:

I made this photo at sunrise. To get to the top before sunrise we allowed an extra forty-five minutes for the steep walk from the car lot and, of course, packed flashlights. It can be windy and cold before sunrise even in the summer months. On the morning in early August it was 47°F and windy.

Directions:

From Helen drive 11.5 miles north on GA 75 to the intersection with GA 180. (You will have crossed Unicoi Gap and the Appalachian Trail.) Turn left and drive approx 5.5 miles to a sharp right onto GA-180 Spur N. It's 3 miles (up) to the parking lot.

Coordinates of the parking lot:

34°52'26.6"N 83°48'39.5"W

Interesting fact:

As you drive up the last three very steep miles you may be surprised to know that the Tour de Georgia raced up this roadway on bicycles in 2005 through 2008.