

Horse Trough Falls

Easy to get to but hard to find makes this one of the least crowded and most enjoyable waterfalls in the area. Estimates of its size range from 55 to 70 feet but it isn't free falling near that far. There seem to be three separate (almost equal) stages that make up the total.



Notes for the photographer: Like so many waterfalls in these mountains, Horse Trough is in deep forest. If it is a sunny day, try to arrive at mid-day to get some light down into the little valley but, best of all, select a cloudy day where the light is soft and more even.

Directions: From Helen travel north on Georgia 75. Just before crossing Unicoi Gap (about 8 miles), make a left onto Forest Service Road 44 (Wilkes Creek Road). This is a narrow, gravel roadway that is perfectly beautiful, if not a bit challenging at times. You will now travel about 4 miles to a right turn into Upper Chattahoochee Campground. Once in the campground go to the very back. There you will find parking and the marked trail. Enter the trail and, in just a minute or two, you will cross a little footbridge (to the left) which leads to the falls. (That little stream you crossed on the footbridge is the Chattahoochee River! Picture what it is a few hundred miles south.) You will be at the falls in another few minutes. GPS coordinates at the trail head: 34°47'31.0"N 83°47'06.4"W

Interesting fact: Is it one word (Horsetrough) or two (Horse Trough)? Local lore is inconsistent and Google Maps uses both on the same page! The dictionary uses two words to describe that thing from which horses drink.