

Raven Cliffs Falls



You will find Raven Cliff Falls at the end of a two- and one-half-mile trek along Dodd Creek on the bed of a long-gone logging railroad. The trail is almost flat except for the last one-hundred yards or so. Several smaller waterfalls (12 or 15 footers) can be accessed from the trail. This is a popular spot and can get busy on the weekends. It's popular for a reason.

Directions: From Helen drive a few miles north on Hwy 17 toward Hiawassee. Just past Robertstown turn left onto GA 75 Alt. Drive 2.3 miles and turn right onto GA 348 (the very pleasant Richard Russell Scenic Highway). A drive into the parking area will be on your left after 2.7 miles.

GPS Coordinates for the trail head parking lot: 34°42'35.7"N 83°47'21.6"W

Notes for the photographer: This can get to be a crowded place in the afternoons at any time of year but especially on weekends. I waited a half hour to get a people-free shot and finally decided to include this hiker. I'm really glad I did because it brings a sense of scale that wouldn't have been there if she weren't.

Interesting fact: The railroad bed (on which the trail lies) was part of the Byrd-Matthews Lumber Company which operated circa 1914-15. The huge Byrd-Matthews mill gave birth to the City of Helen when it brought in hundreds of workers to operate the mill, built sewer and water systems, hotels, etc. in 1912. The mill closed in 1931.