

Unicoi Park



The largest state park in Georgia may also be the most beautiful. In addition to the 53-acre Smith Lake (aka Unicoi Lake) and its two beaches, the park has hiking trails, biking trails, picnic areas, and unique rental accommodations.

Directions: From Helen travel north on Hwy 75 (Main Street) a few miles to Robertstown where you will make a right onto Hwy 356. At about one- and one-half miles you should pull (left) into the parking area just after passing the road to Anna Ruby Falls and immediately before crossing the dam.

Notes from the photographer: From the parking lot you can walk the two-mile trail around the lake to get some really nice landscape shots. You will cross the dam at the end of the loop -- where this photo was made.

GPS Coordinate of parking lot and head of trail going around lake: 34°43'29.9"N 83°43'37.1"W

Interesting fact: In 1954, the state opened Unicoi State Park named after the Unicoi Turnpike, which was a toll road used in the 1830s to bring the first white settlers to the area. The Cherokee word “unega” means “white,” thus the meaning of Unicoi is “Place of the White Man,” “White Man’s Way,” “The New Way,” or “The New Beginning.”