

Hike the Appalachian Trail



For many, hiking the Appalachian Trail is a lifelong dream. With Outdoor Adventures Travel, you can choose to hike some of the most beautiful or historically significant sections of the more than 2,100-mile (3,380-km) trail.

SCHOLASTIC

Choose From These Fabulous Locations Along the Appalachian Trail

Baxter State Park, Maine

Hanover, New Hampshire

Wallingford, Vermont

Kent, Connecticut

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, West Virginia

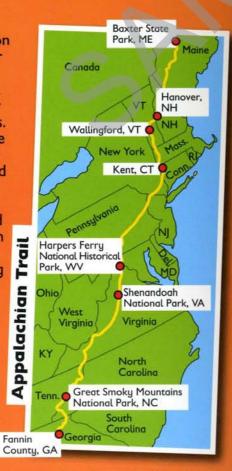
> Shenandoah National Park, Virginia

Great Smoky Mountains National Park, North Carolina

Fannin County, Georgia

Travel With Us

Travel from location to location on our coach bus! Enjoy the scenery, read, listen to music, or even watch movies. There will be three full travel days between Maine and New Hampshire, Connecticut and West Virginia, and Virginia and North Carolina. You'll enjoy the traveling as much as the hiking!



Sam Abell/National Geographic/Getty Images; BrendanReals/Shutterstock; Paul Harris/Stone/ Getty Images; Kazela/Shutterstock; Pat & Chuck Blackley; BrendanReals/Shutterstock.

Baxter State Park, ME

 Highlights: Katahdin Hike (strenuous)
Accommodations: Overnight tent camping in Baxter State Park

Recommended Time: 1–2 days

Are you an experienced hiker looking for a challenge? Then hiking the Appalachian Trail in Maine is for you. The 281 miles (452.2 km) of trail that pass through Maine are often considered the most difficult miles of the 14-state Appalachian Trail. Baxter Peak on Mt. Katahdin—Maine's highest mountain—is the trailhead for the Appalachian Trail. On this challenging day hike, your tour leaders will guide you through the largest and most untouched wilderness in the eastern United States. Keep your eyes peeled for breathtaking vistas and wildlife such as moose, loons, black bears, and river otters.

Hanover, NH

 Highlights: Velvet Rocks Hike (easy)
Accommodations: One night's lodging in a fabulous inn

Recommended Time: 1–2 days

This section of the trail is unique in that it runs right through the town of Hanover, home to Dartmouth College. The Dartmouth Outing Club—the country's oldest and largest collegiate outing club—maintains 75 miles (120.7 km) of the Appalachian Trail in Vermont and New Hampshire. We begin our hike at the corner of two streets in town, where a plaque marks the Appalachian Trail. From there, we'll walk through town and into the woods to the Velvet Rocks Trail.



Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, WV

Highlights: Harpers Ferry Hike (easy/ moderate); historic landmarks

Accommodations: One night's lodging in a fabulous inn

Recommended Time: I-2 days

History buffs, don't miss this town that played such an important role in U.S. history before, during, and after the Civil War. The Appalachian Trail runs through this lovely, historic community where the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers meet. Our hike takes us through a gorgeous, forested ridge top with panoramic views of the Potomac River. Later, we'll visit the site of John Brown's famous raid on Harpers Ferry.



 Highlights: Clarendon Gorge Hike (moderate); swimming
Accommodations: Overnight tent camping
Recommended Time: 1–2 days

Vermont features some lovely hiking along the Appalachian Trail. For those who would like to see a variety of landscapes without any major climbing or rough weather, this location is for you. We finish the hike at Clarendon Gorge on the Mill River, where we will take a dip in a deep swimming hole. The walls of the gorge rise dramatically from the swimming areas, and several waterfalls can be viewed upstream.

Kent, CT

 Highlights: Housatonic River Walk (easy); bird watching
Accommodations: Overnight tent camping

Recommended Time: 1-2 days

The Housatonic River Valley is unique in that it holds the longest flat section on the Appalachian Trail. It is also the longest stretch that follows a river. You're sure to enjoy the scenery along this old farming road. Listen to the music of the water and watch kayakers paddle by. Search for otters and other animals that use the river. And we'll be in prime bird-watching country!



Shenandoah National Park, VA

 Highlights: Thornton Gap to Hogback Overlook Hike (moderate)
Accommodations: Overnight tent camping
Recommended Time: 1–2 days

The tranquil, forested mountains of Shenandoah National Park are the setting for 101 winding miles (162.5 km) of the Appalachian Trail. The trail crosses over low peaks and passes through thickly wooded areas. Much of the hike is downhill, with only a few steep ascents. Interestingly, most of these miles were relocated from their original position, which became the route of the scenic Skyline Drive. That's good for us, since the Skyline Drive is the highway we will follow to this lovely bit of wilderness. The hazy Blue Ridge Mountains are wonderful to explore. Let our guides show you!

