



Rough Trail #221

Cumberland District • Daniel Boone National Forest • Kentucky



Gladie Visitor Center

3451 Sky Bridge Road
Stanton, KY 40380
606-768-3341

Please call ahead for days and hours of operation.



Directions to Trailhead East end of Rough Trail

From Slade, go east on KY 15 for 7 miles and turn left onto KY 715. Continue 4.1 miles to the Rough Trail/Swift Camp Creek Trail parking area on the left. *From Pine Ridge*, take exit 40 off the Mountain Parkway and head west on KY 15. Turn right onto KY 715; continue 4.1 miles to the Swift Camp Creek/Rough Trail parking area on the left. **West end of Rough Trail** *From Slade*, travel west on KY 11/15. After 1.5 miles, turn right onto KY 77. Follow 77 through Nada Tunnel. The Martin's Fork parking area is on the left.



Open Dates

Trail is open all year.



Trail Fees

None.



Permit

Permit required if **camping** in the Red River Gorge between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.



Accessibility

This trail does not meet accessibility standards for persons with disabilities.



This hiking-only trail is closed to motorized vehicles.



Consumption of alcohol and open containers of alcohol are prohibited.



Camping and firebuilding in rock shelters is prohibited.



Camp 300 feet AWAY from any road or trail.

Rough Trail, located in the Red River Gorge on the Cumberland District, extends through the Red River Gorge Geological Area between KY 77 and KY 715. This challenging trail climbs from streamside to ridge-top and back down again several times. There are several stream crossings that will require care when crossing after heavy rains.

The trail traverses the Red River Gorge across its heart from west to east. At the east end the Swift Camp Creek Trail #219 continues into Clifty Wilderness for almost another 7 miles making for a long trail outing of nearly 15 miles one way.

Rough Trail begins on the western end at Martins Fork Trailhead. From the trailhead hike back toward Nada Tunnel and cross the road at a footbridge. Right away the woods are cool and dark and the trail stays tight with the small stream. The first section climbs up Martins Fork and abuts Grays Arch Trail #205.

From the intersection with Grays Arch Trail, Rough Trail continues on toward Grays Arch itself through its second section, first continuing out a broad, flat ridge before dropping steeply down a newly cut section of trail and then some steep stairs. At the bottom of the stairs go a few yards to the right for a fantastic view of Grays Arch before turning around and continuing east on Rough Trail. The trail continues down into the deep valley and immediately begins climbing up to Rush Ridge. The second section ends when the trail levels out on top.

The third section immediately drops steeply over a rock step from the crest of the ridge and then passes under an overhanging section of cliff and then into a narrow slot canyon for a short distance before coming out on a steep slope that drops down to Rush Branch. Again, Rough Trail begins climbing steeply as soon as it hits bottom. The third section ends with the third climb along the trail as Rough Trail intersects the Sheltoewe Trace on Pinch-Em-Tight Ridge.

Once on top of the ridge the first real reprieve comes as Rough Trail runs with the Sheltoewe Trace straight out the ridge for about a mile before beginning another descent. In the valley, the trail crosses the creek in several times before splitting. The Sheltoewe heads north and Rough continues east, crossing the creek several more times. Then there is a steep climb out of Chimney Top Creek to Chimney Top Road.

At the beginning of the fifth section is another respite before the descent into Parch Corn Creek. There is one more big climb before the end at KY 715.

Begins:	Martins Fork Parking Area	Difficulty:	Difficult
Ends:	KY 715 Parking Area	Surface:	Dirt
Length:	7 miles	Quad:	Slade
County:	Powell	Latitude:	37.820294,
Closest Town:	Slade	Longitude:	-83.666940

Use Care When Crossing Flooded Streams

Streams may be prone to flooding in extreme weather events and after short periods of intense rainfall. Distant rain may be channeled into gullies and ravines, turning a quiet stream into a rampaging torrent in minutes.

- Wait for everyone in the crew to arrive at stream, and make a determination to cross.
- Don't walk through flooded areas. As little as six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. Do not attempt to cross a flowing stream where water is above your ankles.
- When walking over a stream, loosen pack buckles so if you fall you can easily get away from your pack and it will not drag you under.
- Wait for everyone to cross before continuing (in case the last person needs assistance).



U.S. Department of Agriculture - Forest Service
Southern Region - Daniel Boone National Forest
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/dbnf>

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Storing Your Food and Trash

Unless cooking or eating, store your food inside a closed vehicle with a solid top, a closed, hard-body trailer, or a bear-resistant container. Store your food garbage in the same manner where trash cans are not installed. Do not burn or bury foods, refuse, or bear attractants.

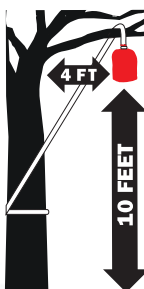
When camping in the backcountry, suspend food and trash at least 10 feet clear of the ground at all points, suspended at least 4 feet horizontally from the supporting tree or pole, and suspended at least 4 feet from any other tree or pole adjacent to the supporting pole or tree.

Food and trash storage is mandatory (DB-02-15)



Put your trash in bear-resistant trash cans, in areas where they are provided.

Store food and trash inside a closed vehicle with a solid top.



Hang food and trash from a tree, out of bear's reach in backcountry areas where bear-resistant trash cans and vehicles are not nearby.

Rules and Regulations

Observe these rules to help protect the forest resources, facilities and visitor experience.

The following are prohibited:

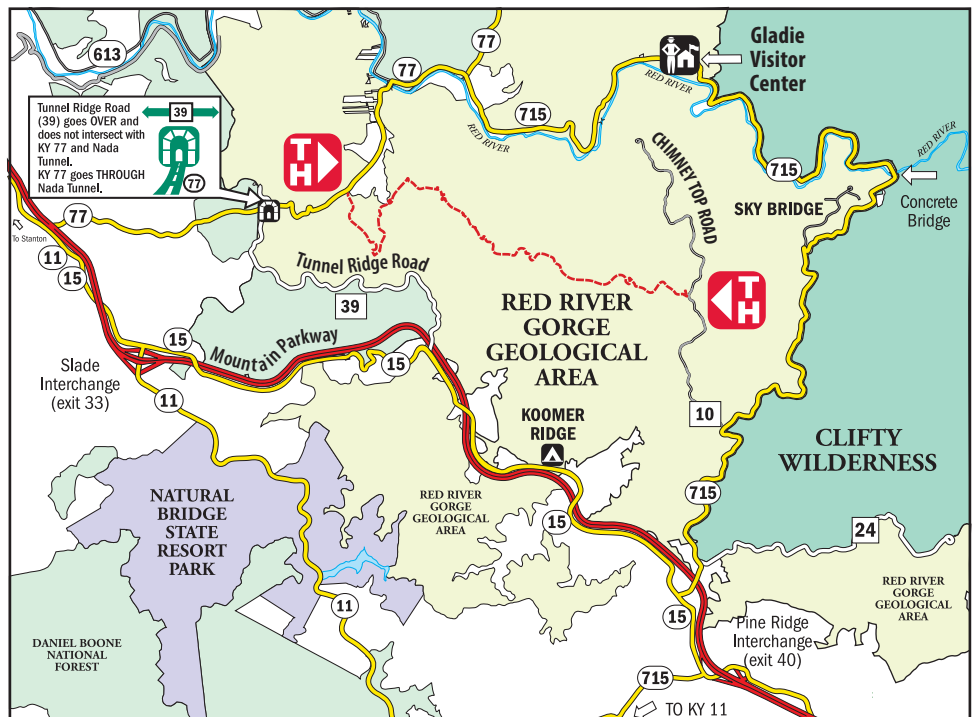
- Climbing or rappelling within 300 feet of Sky Bridge, Grays Arch, Nada Tunnel, or Chimney Top Rock overlooks.
- Building, maintaining, attending and using a fire, campfire or stove within 100 feet of the base of any cliff or the back of a rock shelter.
- Consumption and open containers of alcohol in public places, including national forest land and Kentucky lakes and waterways.
- Camping within 300 feet of any developed road, or Tunnel Ridge Road and its associated parking lots.
- Camping within 300 feet of any developed trail.
- Camping within 600 feet of Grays Arch in the Red River Gorge Geological Area,

Permit Information

A permit is required for overnight camping in the Red River Gorge Geological Area and Indian Creek. All vehicles on KY 15 or in the Red River Gorge and Indian Creek areas north of KY 15 must display a permit between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. Permits are available at local stores and the Gladie Visitor Center.

Vehicles and Parking

- Keep vehicles on established roads. All vehicle traffic is restricted to roads only.
- Parking on Tunnel Ridge Road is limited to designated parking sites.
- Off-highway vehicle use is prohibited in the Red River Gorge Geological Area.

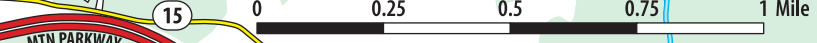
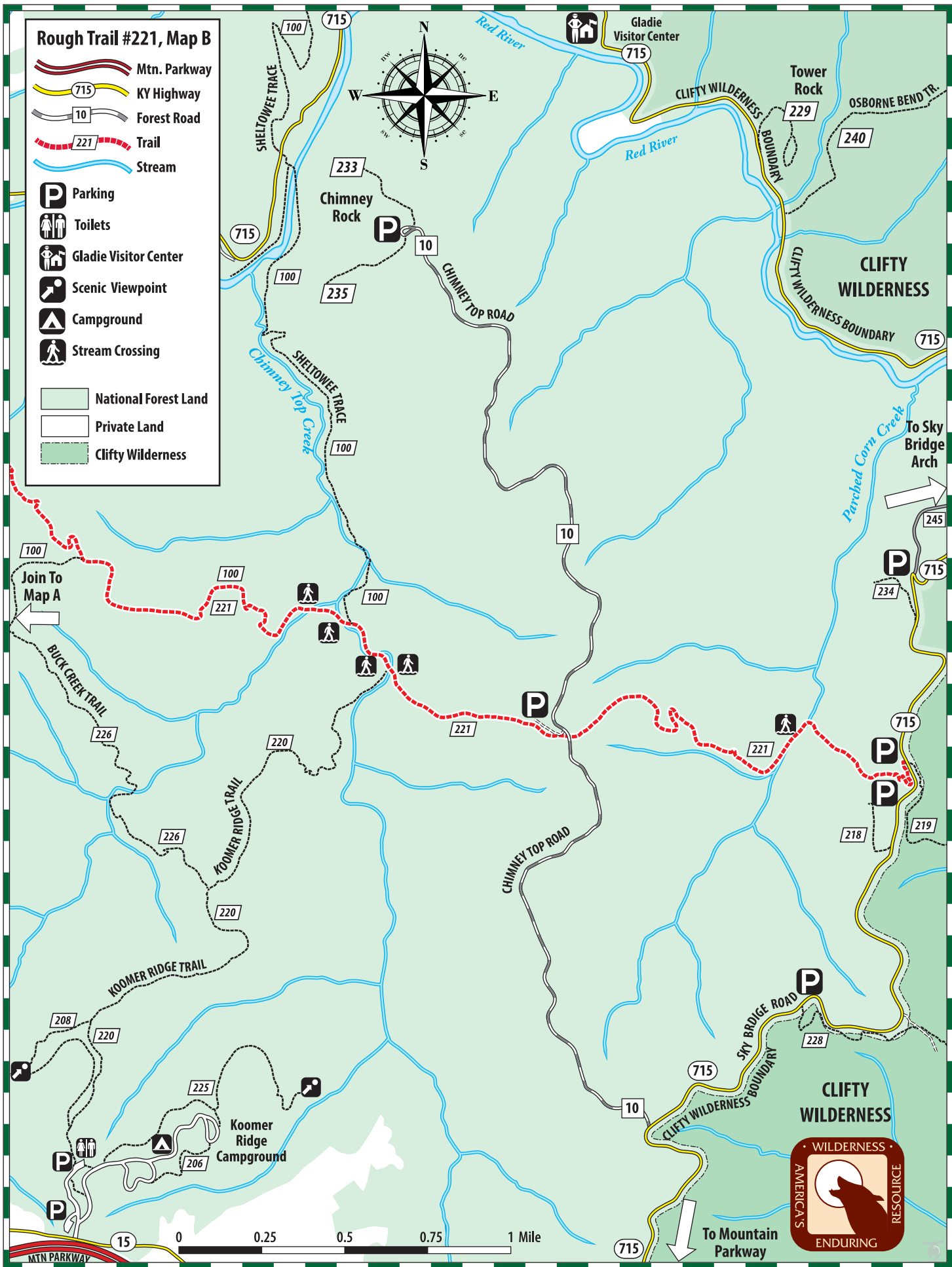


You are responsible for your own safety.

All outdoor activities have inherent risks and you may encounter a variety of unexpected and/or dangerous conditions. It is your responsibility to be informed and take precautions. Learn more at www.fs.usda.gov/r8.

Rough Trail #221, Map B

- Mtn. Parkway
- KY Highway
- Forest Road
- Trail
- Stream
- Parking
- Toilets
- Gladie Visitor Center
- Scenic Viewpoint
- Campground
- Stream Crossing
- National Forest Land
- Private Land
- Clifty Wilderness



MTN PARKWAY 15

To Mountain Parkway

To Sky Bridge Arch