

Take a Walk on the Chilly Side of Life: 6 Great Winter Hikes in the South

At first, hiking in the winter sounds pretty crazy. I mean, it's freezing cold! But the more I thought about it, the more it made sense for us Southerners. Hiking in the summer eliminates the hot, muggy weather most Southern states are so famous for. So here's 6 places to hike this winter!

Linville Falls- Asheville, NC

Beautiful, frosty views await you on this lovely winter hike! This trail is off the Blue Ridge Parkway, which is often closed in the winter due to ice. But you can access the trail further down the gorge and still enjoy the beauty of the Parkway! <https://ashevilletrails.com/linville-gorge/linville-falls-winter-hiking/>

Big Bend National Park, South Rim Loop- Texas

This trail is actually most beautiful in the winter because the Texas heat won't kill you! Climb to the highest peak in the park and view the splendor of the Chihuahuan Desert, which actually crosses the Mexican border. <https://www.outsideonline.com/1929426/ten-perfect-winter-hikes>

Providence Canyon State Park- Columbus, Georgia

Called "Georgia's Little Grand Canyon," Providence Canyon has spectacular views and is certainly a different terrain than the rest of the South has! It's especially beautiful in the winter because the evergreen forests stand out even more against the tan canyon walls. There are several trails within the park, and none will disappoint! <https://www.atlantatrails.com/hiking-trails/providence-canyon-georgia-little-grand-canyon/>

Poinsett State Park- Wedgfield, SC

This lovely state park has many trails for you to hike this winter! South Carolina is extremely hot and humid in the summer, so hiking these trails in the winter will be far more fun. You'll get to see the beautiful waterfalls and creeks that run through the park as you walk the paths through the tall trees. <https://southcarolinaparks.com/poinsett/maps-and-brochures>

Laurel Falls- Great Smoky National Park NC, TN

Looking for a shorter hike? Then this 1.3 mile hike is perfect for you! Located in the Great Smoky National Park- shared by North Carolina and Tennessee- this beautiful hike takes you to an 80 foot waterfall, whose crystal clear waters seem even more beautiful in the winter when it's a little chilly outside. <https://www.nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit/laurel-falls.htm>

Mammoth Cave National Park- Kentucky

It might be cold everywhere else, but these intricate caves typically maintain a temperature in the mid 50s. You can hike above ground or take tours in the caves year round! The park offers some neat winter tours and activities, so be sure to check that out when planning your visit! <https://www.nps.gov/mac/index.htm>