



Springer Mountain Loop



The first white blaze of thousands lies atop Springer Mountain beside a plaque at the southern terminus of the Appalachian Trail.

Hike Distance	5.1 miles
Type of Hike	Loop
Difficulty	Moderate
Hiking Time	Half Day
Start Elevation	3,372 ft
Total Ascent	1,065 ft
Land Manager	USFS
Fee	None

For Appalachian Trail enthusiasts there are two mountains more important than all the rest. One is Maine's Mount Katahdin, which marks the trail's northern terminus; the other is Georgia's Springer Mountain, the southern terminus and the jumping off point for the vast majority of the roughly 2,000 hikers who attempt the entire Appalachian Trail each year. Neither of these mountains is easy to get to. You certainly can't drive up them. Foot travel is the only way and that is no piece of cake.

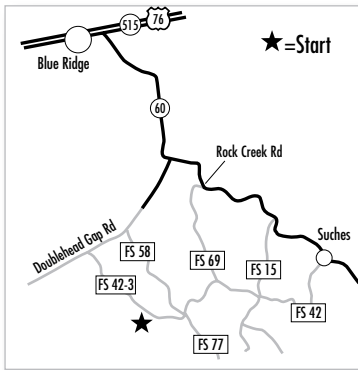
On this hike you'll walk up Springer Mountain via of Benton MacKaye Trail, which also has its southern terminus here. Before reaching Springer, you'll cross the top of Ball Mountain with its inspiring cliff-top view. Soon you'll turn onto the AT and climb to the very summit of Springer. It's a neat spot. On a large rock outcrop are several plaques and the southernmost white blaze—a stripe of white paint that for over 2,000 miles takes on an identity of its own, becoming many a hiker's friend on the trek north. Enjoy the views from the rock and be sure to check out the hikers' log in the nearby shelter.

Getting to the Trailhead

From the junction of Highway 515 and GA 60 just north of Blue Ridge, drive 13 miles on GA 60 and turn right on Doublehead Gap Road. Continue another 5.8 miles and turn left on FS 58. Drive 5.9 miles to FS 42-3, turn right and go 2.7 miles. You'll find the trailhead where the AT crosses the road.

GPS Coordinates

N 34° 38.26' W 84° 11.70'



Hiking Directions

Begin Walk north on the Appalachian Trail.

Mile 0.3 Turn right on Benton MacKaye Trail.

Mile 1.7 Cross FS 42-3.

Mile 2.0 Turn left on the spur to the clifftop view on Ball Mountain.

Mile 3.5 Pass the Benton MacKaye Memorial, then turn left on

the Appalachian Trail.

Mile 3.8 Springer Mountain summit. Check out the view and the plaques, then head back down trail and turn right to check out the shelter before continuing on down the mountain on the Appalachian Trail.

Mile 5.1 Finish.



Checking out the view from Ball Mountain cliff.

Springer Mountain Loop Trail Map

