

Emery Creek Trail



FIFTH FALLS ON EMERY CREEK
Class: Block Height: 15 feet Rating: Good

On this hike you'll travel the entire distance alongside Emery Creek. From the trailhead, you'll walk high above the creek for a short rocky stretch up to the confluence of Emery and Holly Creeks. It's a section popular with sun worshippers and creek swimmers, so you'll probably meet people walking along here as folks like to hang out in the rapids, pools, and small cascades. Once past Holly Creek, the first of many fords, you'll leave those folks behind.

Even with its frequent stream crossings, this hike is very pleasant. It climbs gently through a mixed hemlock and hardwood forest—cool on even the hottest of summer days—alongside the babbling, bubbling creek. Eventually the trail begins to climb more noticeably, and the creek quickens its pace accordingly. This is the sign that the falls are not far ahead. You'll cross the creek and turn on a short spur trail to the base of the first of them, a beauty dropping 40 feet. Skirt up and around it to see the second falls directly above, a wide 15-footer. Both of these have nice pools for splashing around in if you're so inclined.

Hike Distance:	6.4 miles
Type of Hike:	Out & Back
Number of Falls:	5
Hiking Time:	Half day
Dry Feet:	No
Start Elevation:	1,040 ft
Total Ascent:	1,000 ft
Land Manager:	USFS
Fee:	None

Head back to the main trail and continue up, a bit more steeply now. It's not far to three more waterfalls, and soon you'll hear a roar through the rhododendron and see glimpses of whitewater and a definite falls below. Getting a closer look requires scrambling down the bank, but it's well worth the effort. These falls drop 15, 40, and 15 feet, and each has a nice plunge pool.

Emery Creek trail continues upward from here. An additional mile or so up the trail brings you to another 15-foot waterfall. However, after the power and beauty of the first five, it's hardly worth the extra effort and time required



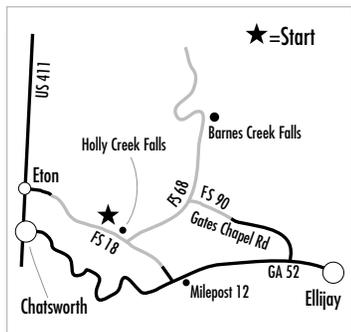
FOURTH FALLS ON EMERY CREEK
Class: Tiered Height: 40 ft Rating: Excellent

to reach it. Unless you're serious about bagging or photographing waterfalls, it's best to turn back after viewing the fifth falls.



FIRST FALLS ON EMERY CREEK
Class: Tiered Height: 60 ft Rating: Excellent

Emery Creek Trail (cont.)



Getting to the Trailhead

Head west from Ellijay on GA 52. Just before the climb up Fort Mountain and beyond milepost 12, turn right on Conasauga Road. Go 1.2 miles to where the pavement ends. Continue straight onto FS 18 for another 5.0 miles to the trailhead parking lot on the right.

GPS Coordinates

N 34° 48.74' W 84° 39.13'



SECOND FALLS ON EMERY CREEK
Class: Block Height: 15 ft Rating: Good

Hiking Directions

Begin Head out of the back of the parking lot onto Emery Creek Trail which follows an old rocky roadbed.

Mile 0.3 Confluence of Emery and Holly Creek. Ford Holly and then Emery to continue.

Mile 1.3 The trail turns right onto a seeded roadbed.

Mile 1.4 Turn left off roadbed back onto trail. Do not ford the creek here.

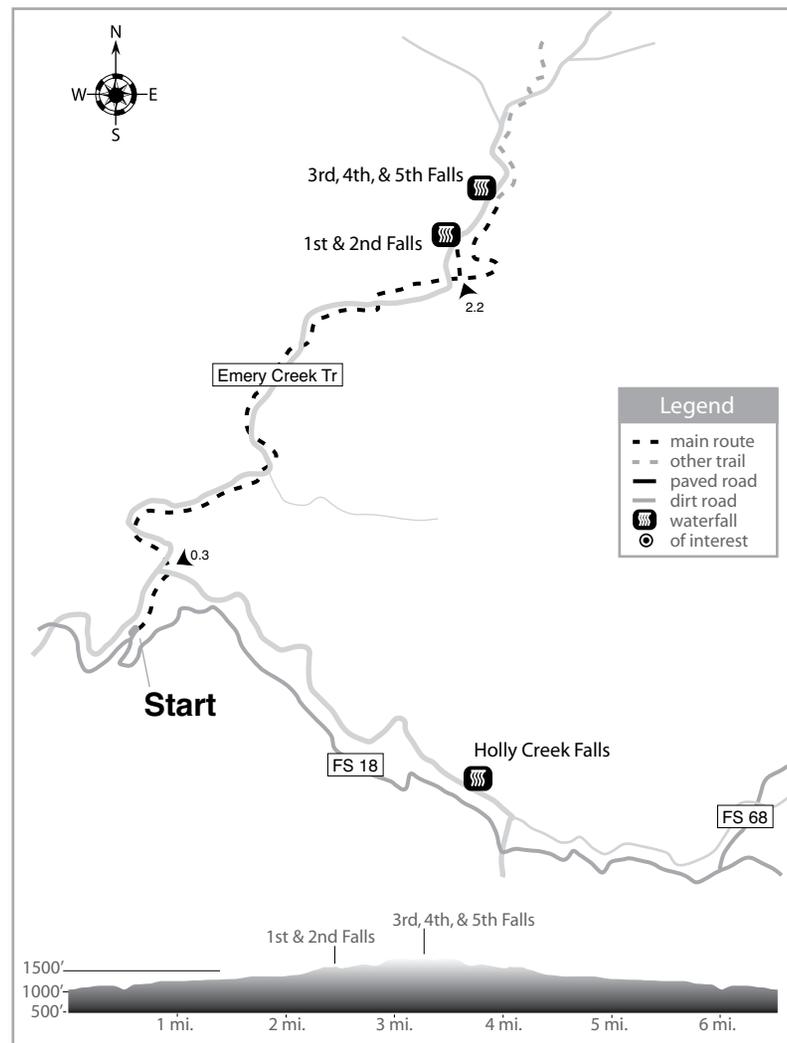
Mile 2.2 Turn left onto a spur

Bonus Falls



HOLLY CREEK FALLS
Class: Segmented Height: 15 ft
Rating: Good

You'll pass this waterfall on your drive to the trailhead. It's easy to miss. From the intersection of FS 18 and FS 68, go 1.0 mile and pull off on the right. The falls is found at the bottom of a steep hill through some big hemlocks.



trail signposted "To Emery Creek Falls."

Mile 2.3 Base of first falls, a 60-footer with a nice pool at the bottom. There is a second falls above this one. After viewing, return to the main trail and turn left up the mountain.

Mile 3.2 Here you'll find the third, fourth, and fifth falls, with the middle one the highest at 40 feet. This is a good place to turn around.

Mile 6.4 Finish.