

Trip Name:	Skyway, Chinnabee, Pinhoti Loop	Emergency Contact (& Phone #) Share this with your emergency contact, put their info here.	
Trip Date(s):		Name	
Trip Location(s):	Talladega National Forest, Adam's Gap	Number	
Summary of Itinerary		Launch Address	
2 day backcountry loop that includes swimming holes, scenic views, and many camping options.		Adam's Gap Trailhead on AL 281 South, only 3.8 miles south of Cheaha State Park.	
Nearest Emergency Resources (Addresses & Phone #s)			
Hospital Tanner Medical Center/East Alabama 1032 Main St S, Wedowee, AL 36278 +12563572111 Clinic Clay County Medical Clinic 60026 AL-49, Lineville, AL 36266 +12563962141			
Evacuation Plan: (Routes, Bearings, GPS Coordinates, etc.)		Environmental Conditions & Concerns	
Call 911 Call Ranger Station - Talladega Ranger District - 256) 362-2909 Call Emergency Contact Head to nearest campsite or road crossing Always yield to emergency responder directions.		Do not hike in severe weather, seek shelter. Don't forget to check the weather before you leave. Look For: - lightning - Tornado conditions - flash flood warnings - watch the radar prediction. Do not interact with wildlife. Maintain a safe and respectful distance.	
Relevant Information (campsite check-in/out times, trail notes, important details, etc.)			
Remember Leave No Trace: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Plan ahead and Prepare Camp and Travel on Durable Surfaces Dispose of Waste Properly Respect Others Respect Wildlife Minimize Campfire Impact Leave What You Find trail data. Trails Covered ~ Pinhoti Trail, Chinnabee Silent Trail, Skyway Loop Trail Hike Location ~ South Cheaha Wilderness Hike Direction ~ Counter Clockwise Hike Distance ~ 16.7 miles Start / Finish Hike ~ Adams Gap Trailhead Terrain / Difficult ~ 0.0 ~ 8.0 rocky climbs and descents, rock bluffs and rock gardens. Moderate ~ 8.0 ~ 16.7 rolling hills. There are 3 moderate size creek crossings in the Chinnabee and Skyway area, use extreme caution after heavy rains. hiker services. CS ~ Convenience Store / Nice Mom and Pop stores ~ 0 TT ~ Trail Town / Large enough for McDonald's ~ 0 SC ~ Small Campsite / At least one tent site ~ 4.4 LC ~ Large Campsite / At least three tent sites ~ 3.1, 4.8, 5.4, 5.8, 6.0, 7.6, 7.8, 9.0, 11.0, 12.7, 15.7 TS ~ Trail Shelter / Three sided, open front ~ 9.2 SW ~ Seasonal Water / Needs rain in the past week ~ 1.2, 2.5, 3.2, 5.5, 5.9, 6.0, 6.9, 8.2, 16.4			

RW ~ Reliable Water / Always available ~ 7.6, 9.0, 11.0, 11.4, 12.7, 12.8, 15.7

Trail Description

For an easier hike, walk the loop clockwise. Please note that the following directions are for a counter-clockwise hike.

This 16.7 mile counter-clockwise loop begins at the southwestern end of the Cheaha Wilderness at the Adams Gap Trailhead. From the parking area, you'll cross over AL 281 and go down the small downhill paved road about 10 feet to the Pinhoti Trail. Turn left on the Pinhoti and hike 6.0 miles to the Little Caney Head Campsite. Then turn left on the Chinnabee Silent Trail and hike 5.4 miles to Lake Chinnabee. Just before the lake you'll turn left on the Skyway Loop Trail and then hike 5.1 miles to the Pinhoti Trail. Turn left on the Pinhoti and hike 0.2 miles to the Adams Gap Trailhead.

trail marking.

Wilderness Standards do not allow trail blazing in protected areas ~ mile 0.0 thru 8.0.

The western half of the Chinnabee and all of the Skyway Trail are well blazed.

time vs distance

To help you judge the time needed to travel from point A to point B, consider that the average hiking pace is 2 mph:

60 minutes = 2 miles

30 minutes = 1 mile

15 minutes = 1/2 mile

driving directions.

0.0 ~ ADAMS GAP TRAILHEAD

Exit I ~ 20 at US 431, east of Oxford.

Go south 3.4 miles to the overhead bridge.

Go 100 yards past the overhead bridge to the second right turn, just before the Cheaha Store. Turn right.

Go 0.4 miles to the stop sign at AL 281. Turn left.

Go 17.9 miles to where the pavement ends at the Adams Gap Trailhead parking area.

trail guide.

0.0 ~ ADAMS GAP TRAILHEAD / AL 281 ~ 1444'

From the parking area, cross over AL 281 and go down the small downhill paved road for about 10' and turn left up the hill into the Cheaha Wilderness.

0.1 ~ CHEAHA WILDERNESS BOUNDARY / INFO BOARD ~ 1500'

1.2 thru 2.5 ~ 6 SPRING CROSSINGS ~ 1360' +/- ~ SW

3.1 ~ CAMPSITE ~ 1380' ~ LC, SW

There is a fire ring here on the left and the spring crossing is at mile 3.2.

3.2 ~ SPRING CROSSING ~ 1360' ~ SW

3.5 ~ SIGN BOARD / ROAD BED ~ 1460'

The trail turns right on the road bed and goes 0.2 miles.

3.7 ~ SIGN BOARD ~ 1575'

The trail goes back in the woods on the left. This sign board is off trail 10' on the left and is easy to miss.

3.7 ~ STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN ~ 1575'

Here is a huge rock garden and there are a lot of tricky little uphill rocky switchbacks for the next 0.5 miles. Keep a close watch on the blazes!

4.3 ~ PEARLY GATES ~ 2050'

You will have to see it to believe it. Yikes!

4.4 ~ HEAVEN / ROCKY TOP 4 ~ 2135' ~ SC

There is a hidden rocky overlook on the left as you scramble your way around the north side of the peak.

WILDFLOWER ~ Mountain Laurel / Late Spring / White.

4.8 ~ 5.4 ~ 3 CAMPSITES ~ 2100' +/- ~ LC ~ Good views

5.5 ~ SPRING CROSSING ~ 2140' ~ SW

5.7 ~ ROCKY TOP 5 ~ 2160'

5.8 ~ CAMPSITE ~ 2120' ~ LC ~ Good views

5.9 ~ SPRING CROSSING ~ 2120' ~ SW

6.0 ~ LITTLE CANEY HEAD CAMPSITE / CHINNABEE SILENT TRAIL ~ 2100' ~ LC, SW

Turn left at this big intersection on the Chinnabee Silent Trail and start working your way down off the ridge.

LC ~ Little Caney Head is a busy place with 6 fire rings.

SW ~ The spring is 50' down the CST, on the left. This is a high ridge spring and therefore it is reliably unreliable year round - plan accordingly.

WILDFLOWER ~ Mountain Laurel / Late Spring / White

6.9 ~ SPRING CROSSING ~ SW

The spring is off trail about 50' to the right, through a Mountain Laurel thicket.

You'll be able to hear it a lot better than you can see it.

7.6 ~ CREEK CROSSING ~ LC, RW

7.8 ~ TURNIPSEED HUNTER'S CAMP ~ LC, RW

The trail goes straight across the camp road. You can go right on the road about 50 yards to a new outhouse.

8.0 ~ AL 281 CROSSING / PARKING AREA

The trail goes straight across the road.

8.2 ~ SPRING CROSSING ~ SW

Cross the spring and the trail turns left.

8.5 ~ SKYWAY MOTORWAY CROSSING

The trail goes straight across the road.

9.0 ~ CHEAHA FALLS ~ LC, RW

Cross the creek and the trail turns left. The falls are downstream 50' to the left.

LC ~ There is a large campsite on the right, before the creek crossing.

FORDING HAZARD: Use extreme caution after heavy rains.

9.2 ~ CHEAHA FALLS SHELTER ~ TS

The trail turns sharp right just past the shelter. This shelter was formerly known as the Little Caneyhead Shelter. It was flown over here by helicopter in 1993 from the Little Caneyhead campsite.

The water source for the shelter is Cheaha Falls.

10.5 ~ PINE BEETLE CUT

11.0 ~ CAMPSITE ~ LC, RW

Look for the camp down on the left.

11.2 ~ DEVIL'S DEN FOOT BRIDGE

This 75' bridge has good views of the chaos below in Devil's Den.

11.4 ~ TRAIL SIGN / SKYWAY LOOP TRAIL INTERSECTION ~ RW

Continue on for another 50' past this sign to the Skyway Loop Trail sign. Turn left here and cross the creek.

FORDING HAZARD: Use extreme caution after heavy rains.

12.0 ~ ROAD BED CROSSING

12.2 ~ ROAD BED CROSSING

12.7 ~ CAMPSITE ~ LC, RW

Look for a trail on the right leading to the camp.

12.8 ~ HUBBARD CREEK CROSSING ~ RW

FORDING HAZARD: Use extreme caution after heavy rains.

13.7 ~ ROAD BED CROSSING

14.7 ~ ROAD BED CROSSING

15.7 ~ CAMPSITE ~ LC, RW

The campsites are on the right and left.

15.8 ~ CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS CHIMNEY

Many years ago there was a CCC Park Cabin on this spot. Keep an eye out for the uphill switchbacks ahead.

16.4 ~ SPRING CROSSING ~ SW

16.5 ~ PINHOTI TRAIL INTERSECTION ~ 1400'

When you come to the intersection, turn left on the Pinhoti and follow the rocky trail up to the gap.

16.7 ~ ADAMS GAP TRAILHEAD ~ 1444'

Meal Ideas

For this trip you'll need at least 4 meals.

Veggie Wraps:

-hummus, tortillas, tomato, spinach, cucumber, and cheese

Spaghetti

-noodles, sauce, green pepper, mushrooms

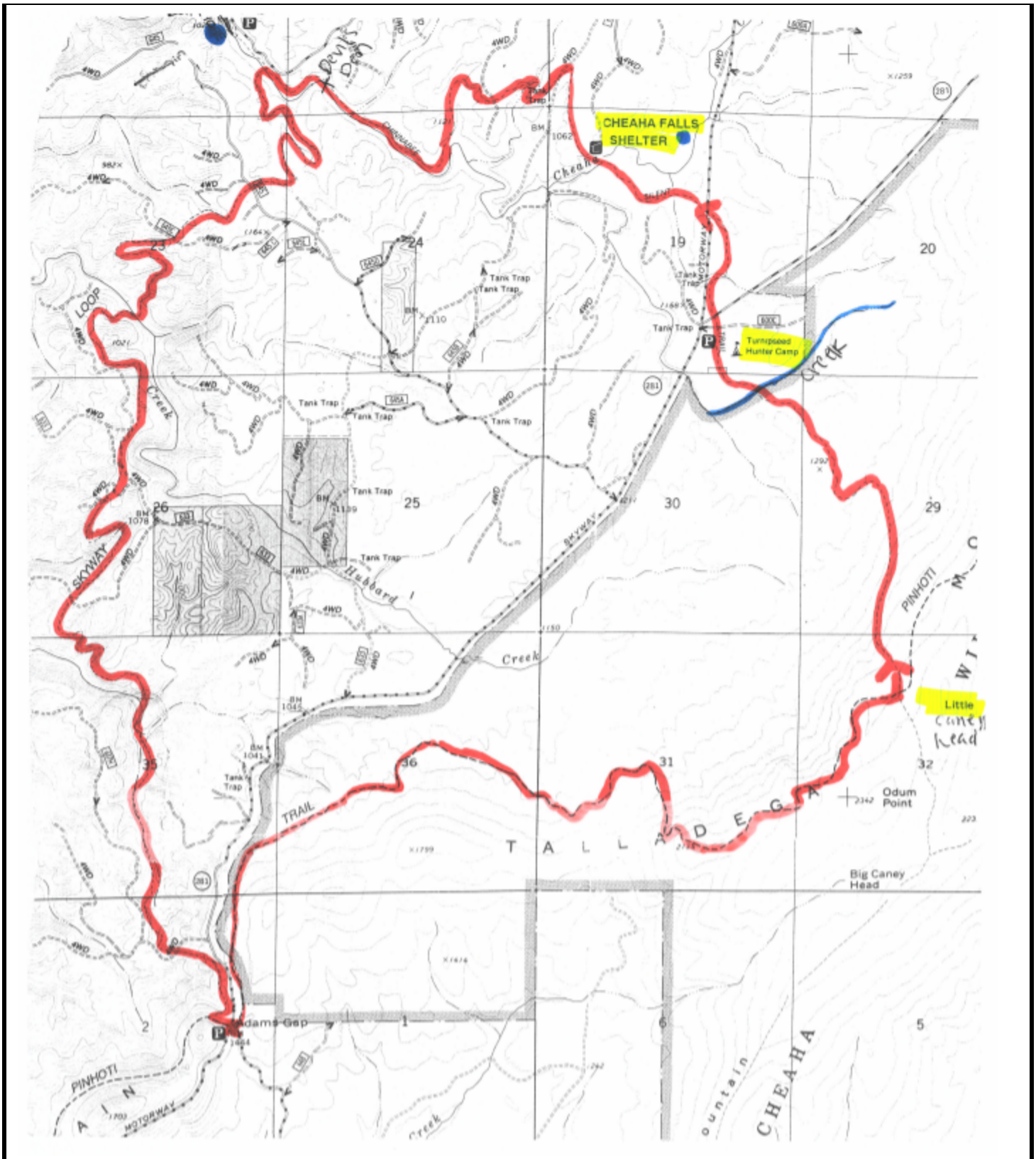
Granola

-granola, evaporated milk (add water), dried berries

Ramen Soup

-ramen, mixed veggies, curry, coconut milk

Map



Packing List

Always ensure you've covered the essentials as described below.

The Ten Essentials:

- **Navigation:** map, compass, altimeter, GPS device, personal locator beacon (PLB) or satellite messenger
- **Headlamp:** plus extra batteries
- **Sun protection:** sunglasses, sun-protective clothes and sunscreen

- **First aid:** including foot care and insect repellent (as needed)
- **Knife:** plus a gear repair kit
- **Fire:** matches, lighter, tinder and/or stove
- **Shelter:** carried at all times (can be a light emergency bivy)
- **Extra food:** Beyond the minimum expectation
- **Extra water:** Beyond the minimum expectation
- **Extra clothes:** Beyond the minimum expectation.

For a detailed packing list, check out this printable list by REI.

<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/backpacking-checklist.html>

Trip Description:

The [Talladega National Forest](#) encompasses everything that makes the southern Appalachians spectacular—panoramic vistas from rocky bluffs and outcroppings, swift creeks and streams, and amazing roaring waterfalls. And you can experience all of those wonderful features by hiking a loop that connects the [Skyway, Chinnabee and Pinhoti trails](#).

This 17.5-mile loop is a perfect overnight backpacking trip for you to just get away into the wilderness to be with nature. The loop begins at the [Adam's Gap Trailhead](#) on AL 281 South, only 3.8 miles south of Cheaha State Park. For an easier hike, walk the loop clockwise. For something more challenging, go counter-clockwise and you'll find yourself doing some steep climbs especially at the intersection of the Skyway Loop and Chinnabee trails.

The hike begins on Alabama's world famous long trail, the Pinhoti, and leads you through an oak and longleaf pine forest. Armadillos will be seen rooting through the underbrush, and you may kick up a wild turkey or two. After all, "Pinhoti" is a Native-American word or "turkey."

The Skyway Loop climbs up to a ridge for some nice views of the Talladega Mountains. Plus, you'll cross a few large creeks, the biggest being Barbaree and Hubbard. The trail drops steeply down off the ridge to pick up the Chinnabee Silent Trail, which follows the banks of its namesake creek where you'll find several cascades and a great swimming hole or two.

Eventually, the trail climbs the side of a rock wall on stone stairs and a wooden catwalk for views of the spectacular Devil's Den Falls. Then, you'll ascend another ridge to reach the Cheaha Falls trail shelter and the beautiful tiered Cheaha Falls.