

Hiking

Appalachian Trail – Woody Gap to Neels Gap

11.5 miles (one way)

Starting at the Byron Reece Memorial (parking) 0.3 miles north of Neels Gap (only limited, 20 min parking allowed at Neels Gap). Follow the blue blaze trail to the AT. At the AT, turn right, and ascend Blood Mountain. Follow the AT (white blazes) all the way to Woody Gap (smaller parking lot, fee)

Shorter Alternative – Blood Mountain Loop

6.8 miles (loop)

Starting at the Byron Reece Memorial (parking) 0.3 miles north of Neels Gap (only limited, 20 min parking allowed at Neels Gap). Follow the blue blaze trail to the AT. At the AT, follow the Freeman Trail to Bird Gap on the AT. At Bird Gap, hike north on the AT, summit Blood Mountain, descend the mountain, take the blue blaze on the left down to parking lot.

Highlights:

Blood Mountain (4461') is highest point on AT in Georgia

Stone cottage, built by CCC in 1930's, at summit of Blood Mt.

Wild Flowers, wildlife, scenic views

At Neels Gap, the AT goes through a building, only place along the either length of the trail

Travel through Blood Mountain Wilderness

Directions:

Neels Gap (from Cleveland, 19 miles)

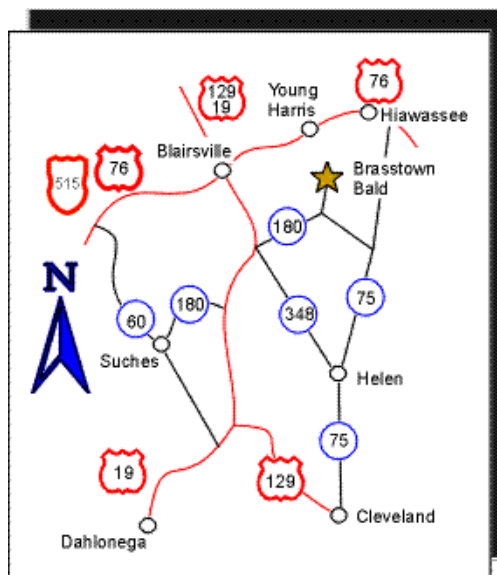
North on Rte 129, North on US 19 / 129, over Neels Gap, 0.3 miles further to parking

Woody Gap (from Cleveland)

North/West on Rte 129, North on Rte 60, to Woody Gap (\$2 parking fee)

Shuttling between Gaps

Use Rte 180 just north of both gaps.



Hiking

Arkaquah Trail

6 miles (5.5 miles (one way) + 0.5 mile summit trail (one way))

Depending on which way this is hiked: Track Rock Gap uphill to Brasstown Bald is more strenuous. In the other direction, it is mostly downhill and moderate.

Shorter Alternative – Summit Trail

1.0 mile (Brasstown Bald parking lot to summit and back)

Highlights:

Brasstown Bald (4788') is the highest peak in the state of Georgia

Water, restrooms, concession, and observation building/tower on summit

Track Rock Gap Archeological Area

Track Rock Gap to Brasstown Bald: gain 2,504' elevation, the most for any trail in Georgia

Travel through Brasstown Wilderness

Directions:

Upper Trailhead – Brasstown Bald

Take US 129 north from Cleveland for 13 miles to GA 180. Go east on Ga. 180. The turn to Brasstown Bald is well marked as such. Turn left and follow the signs to Brasstown Bald. Parking fee

Lower Trailhead - Track Rock Gap

Take US 129 north from Cleveland for 13 miles to GA 180. Go east on Ga. 180. Turn left on Track Rock Gap Road. Go 3 miles on Track Rock Gap Road to a parking lot 1/4 miles passed the gap.

