



DAY TRIP TO ELKMONT

From Gatlinburg · Sevier County, Tennessee



MILL, LUMBER
AND COMPANY



Photo: Brian Stansberry, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY 3.0

NATIONAL PARK

Run by the National Park Service. The historic district, trails and campground area are open; parking needs a park tag, and the campground is seasonal.

Elkmont is an easy day from Gatlinburg, about 25 minutes into the park. Walk through the restored cabins of Daisy Town in the morning, then take the Little River Trail past the chimneys of the cottages that were pulled down. The park lists no food at Elkmont, so pack a lunch.

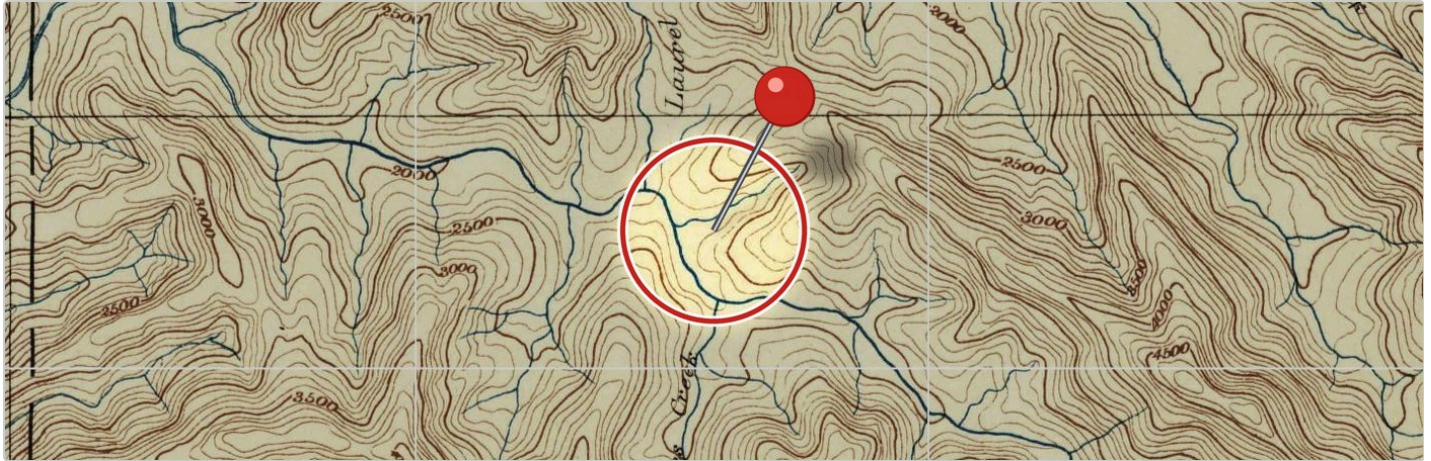
A SAMPLE DAY

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| ☐ Morning | Drive from Gatlinburg by Newfound Gap Road, Fighting Creek Gap Road and Elkmont Road, about 25 minutes. Buy a parking tag online beforehand, or stop for one at Sugarlands Visitor Center. |
| ☐ Late morning | Walk Daisy Town: the Appalachian Clubhouse, the Levi Trentham cabin, the Addicks and Mayo cabins and the Adamless Eden playhouse. |
| ☐ Midday | Eat your packed lunch. |
| ☐ Afternoon | Walk the 5.4-mile Little River, Cucumber Gap and Jakes Creek loop, past stone chimneys and foundations. If Husky Branch is running high, turn back and return the way you came. |
| ☐ Late afternoon | Drive back to Gatlinburg. |

Coming from Knoxville? Allow about 1 hour 25 minutes each way.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The Appalachian Clubhouse.** Built in 1934, the long wooden lodge with its stone chimney is the centerpiece of Daisy Town.
- **Cabin interiors.** You can walk into the restored cabins. They are dim next to the daylight outside, so expose for the inside.
- **The Levi Trentham cabin.** A log cabin of about 1830, the oldest building at Elkmont, moved down to Daisy Town in 1932.
- **Chimneys in the woods.** Stone chimneys and walls of the removed cottages stand along the Little River and Jakes Creek trails.
- **Drones.** Not allowed. The park bans drones and other unmanned aircraft.



USGS topographic map, 1886 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	10 mi, about 26 min each way from downtown Gatlinburg. From Knoxville: 52 mi, about 1 h 23 min.
OPEN	The park posts no hours for Elkmont. Little River Road is open year-round, weather permitting (NPS, April 2026). During the synchronous firefly period in late May (May 20 to 27 in 2026), access after noon was limited to lottery reservation holders and registered campers.
PARKING TAG	Needed for any stop over 15 minutes: \$5 a day, \$15 a week, \$40 a year. Buy one at Sugarlands Visitor Center, at a tag machine (credit card; no tap-to-pay) or online at recreation.gov. A physical tag must be on display. There is no entrance fee, and no tag is needed on the park's fee-free days (October 27 and November 11 are the last in 2026).
THE CABINS	The park says you can explore the restored Daisy Town cabins inside and out (October 2025). The Appalachian Clubhouse is rented for events; WUOT reported in September 2024 that its interior is open only to paid group reservations.
TIME ON SITE	The park doesn't suggest a time for Daisy Town. The Little River, Cucumber Gap and Jakes Creek loop is 5.4 miles round trip; the whole Little River Trail is 12.4 miles round trip.
RESTROOMS	Seasonal restrooms at Daisy Town (NPS). The park doesn't give their dates.
FOOD AND WATER	None listed at Elkmont. Bring lunch and water, or eat in Gatlinburg.
ON FOOT	The Little River Trail starts easy and gets rockier past the Rough Creek Trail junction. It isn't ADA accessible, but the park lends GRIT Freedom Chairs free for its first 2.7 miles. On the loop, the Husky Branch crossing on Cucumber Gap may not be passable in high water.
DOGS	Not allowed on park trails, except the Gatlinburg and Oconoluftee River trails.
WEBSITE	nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit/metcalf-elkmont.htm

BEFORE YOU GO

- Check the status with the land manager before you go; conditions change.
- Keep out of unstable buildings and off fenced ruins.
- Leave artifacts where they lie. Removing them can be a crime.
- Carry water, a paper map and a charged phone; signal is often poor.

Coordinates 35.65556, -83.58444 • 35°39'20"N
83°35'04"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/tennessee/elkmont/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

Details checked October 2026. Hours, prices and access change: confirm before you go.