



# DAY TRIP TO TREMONT

From Townsend · Blount County, Tennessee



MILL, LUMBER  
AND COMPANY

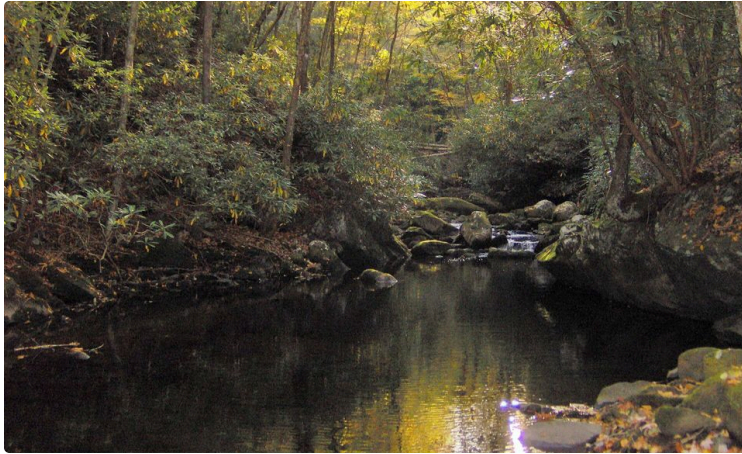


Photo: Brian Stansberry, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY 3.0

## NATIONAL PARK

Park land. Nothing stands but a few rail relics; the townsite is the Middle Prong trailhead, reached by a gravel road open year-round, weather permitting.

Tremont is a half day or a full one from Townsend. The townsite is the trailhead at the end of Upper Tremont Road, and what's left of the logging days lies along the Middle Prong Trail, which follows the old railroad bed up Lynn Camp Prong. There's no food or water at the trailhead, so bring both.

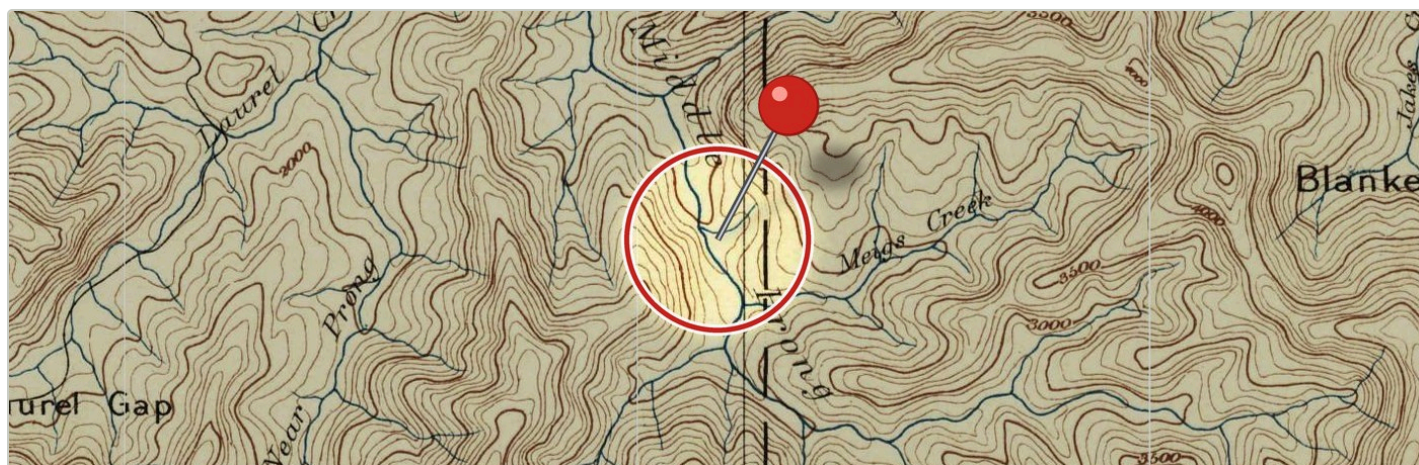
## A SAMPLE DAY

- ☐ 9:30 a.m. Leave Townsend with a parking tag, bought online or at Sugarlands Visitor Center. The last 3.1 miles are on unpaved Upper Tremont Road; about 25 minutes in all.
- ☐ 10 a.m. Stop at the Tremont Institute's visitor center as it opens, then drive on to the end of the road.
- ☐ 10:45 a.m. Stand on the trailhead bridge and look down on the left: the iron on the boulder is what's left of the hotel's dynamo.
- ☐ Late morning Walk up the old rail bed to Lynn Camp Prong Cascades, 0.7 mile in.
- ☐ Midday Eat your packed lunch by the stream.
- ☐ Afternoon Go on to the old car, on a spur trail to the right before the Panther Creek Trail junction, and the CCC camp chimneys a mile beyond. Walk back the way you came.

Coming from Knoxville? Allow about 1 hour 20 minutes each way.

## WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The confluence.** Lynn Camp Prong and Thunderhead Prong meet to form Middle Prong, which you can see off the right side of the trailhead bridge.
- **The dynamo iron.** Look down on the left from the same bridge. A longer lens helps pick out the iron on the boulder.
- **Lynn Camp Prong Cascades.** The park lists the cascades as a scenic view and photo spot.
- **The old car.** Guidebooks call it a Cadillac; a former Tremont worker told the Institute it's a Packard. It has rusted there since the 1930s.
- **CCC camp.** A pile of chimney stones marks the dining hall, and a small brick chimney stands across the trail.
- **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

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>DRIVE</b>          | 9 mi, about 27 min each way from central Townsend. From Knoxville: 40 mi, about 1 h 20 min.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>OPEN</b>           | The park posts no hours. Upper Tremont Road is listed as open year-round but closes for snow, ice or mud (NPS, April 2026). The park calls it unpaved but well maintained (January 2025).                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>PARKING TAG</b>    | 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). |
| <b>DISTANCES</b>      | Lynn Camp Prong Cascades is 1.4 miles round trip (NPS). The Tremont Institute puts the old car about 2 miles up the trail and the CCC camp about a mile beyond it, so allow about 6 miles round trip to the camp.                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>VISITOR CENTER</b> | The Tremont Institute's visitor center, on Tremont Road on the way in, is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and closed on most federal holidays (Institute, June 2026).                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>RESTROOMS</b>      | The park lists none at the trailhead.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>FOOD AND WATER</b> | None at the trailhead. Pack a lunch and water, or eat in Townsend.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>DOGS</b>           | Not allowed on park trails, except the Gatlinburg and Oconoluftee River trails.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>WEBSITE</b>        | <a href="https://nps.gov/grsm/index.htm">nps.gov/grsm/index.htm</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

## 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** 35.61810, -83.66970 • 35°37'05"N  
83°40'11"W

**Full guide** [abandonedtowns.com/tennessee/tremont/](https://abandonedtowns.com/tennessee/tremont/)

**Directions** [Google Maps](#)

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