

Sumter National Forest South Carolina



Parson's Mountain Tower and Lake Trails

Southern Region, USDA Forest Service

Date: 12/15/2003

Highlights

Parson's Mountain Recreation Area just south of Abbeville is home to an 800-foot summit and a moderately difficult 4-mile loop trail. You don't have to climb the mountain to enjoy the mostly clay-surfaced Parson's Lake Trail. The forest around this recreation area includes woods overflowing with flowering flora such as sparkelberry, redbud, wild ginger, and dogwood. You can see many of these by merely following the loop around Parson's Mountain Lake. If you're up for a tougher hike, a spur branches off at the westernmost portion of trail, and you will climb past Civil War-era gold mines to the summit of Parson's Mountain. The mountain is neither terribly high nor dramatic, but it offers compelling views of the surrounding countryside. Geologists call this type of hill a "monadnock," which is a technical term for a mound of hard rock left when all the surrounding land erodes away. Restrooms and drinking ware are available at the recreation area.

Surrounding Area

Abbeville Chamber of Commerce office features pictures telling the history of Abbeville or take a self-guided tour of the town. Fell Hunt Camp and Parson's Mountain Recreation Area, Sumter National Forest.

For More Information

Long Cane Ranger District

820 Buncombe Street

Edgefield, SC 29824

Phone: (803) 637-5396

Fax: (803) 637-5247

Hours: Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

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Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests

4931 Broad River Road, Columbia, SC 29212-3530 (803)561-4000

Directions: From Abbeville, drive southwest on SC 72 for approximately 2 miles, then turn left (south) onto SC 28. drive for approximately 2 miles and turn left onto Abbeville County S-251. The entrance to Parson's Mountain Recreation Area is 1.5 miles on the right. Enter the recreation area and continue to the trailhead at the boat ramp parking area.

Fees: \$3/parking. (at Parson's Mountain Recreation Area)

Amenities: bench along Parson's Mountain Lake Trail

Difficulty level: moderately difficult

Length: 4 miles

Safety: Keep small children away from open pit gold mines.

Surface: dirt

Travel time: 3 hours

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