

Appalachian Trail on Grassy Ridge, Roan Highlands



Located along the North Carolina/Tennessee state line, and where Pisgah and Cherokee National Forests come together, Grassy Ridge in the Roan Highlands is the longest stretch of grassy bald in the Appalachian Mountains. The Appalachian Trail navigates this stunning ridge, hopping from Carvers Gap to Round Bald to Jane Bald, and on to the 6,169-foot Grassy Ridge Bald. The Highlands are a haven for wildlife, and mountain bushes like rhododendron, flame azalea, and green alder. Rare flowers are found here as well, including species such as spreading avens, Blue Ridge goldenrod, Gray's lily and mountain bluet. There are clear views of Grandfather Mountain and the peaks of Linville Gorge to the east, and Mt. Mitchell and the Black Mountains to the south. In short, the Roan Highlands area is a must see.

- Hike Length: 5 miles Hike Duration: 4 hours Blaze: White
- Hike Configuration: Out and back Elevation Gain: 1,360 feet
- Hike Rating: Moderate, some climbing on rocky terrain.
- Trail Condition: Mostly very good, some trenching in high-use areas.
- Starting Point: Trailhead at Carvers Gap on Hwy NC 261/TN 143
- 2 Hr. drive from Sylva