

Naked Ground, Haeo & Hangover Hike



You'll see sheer drop offs for thousands of feet, grand vistas looking into NC. And finally the Hangover is what its name implies, a rocky outcropping with full 360 degree views of the surrounding mountains.

Take the Cherohala Skyway (NC 143) to the turn off to go to Joyce Kilmer. Immediately after turning, turn left again on FS 81. This is a relatively good FS road requiring 4WD, watch out for some deep pot holes.



Take FS 81 quite a ways and turn right on Wolf Laurel Rd (look for small wooden sign). This road climbs and twists quite a bit, again a 4WD vehicle highly recommended... once again, watch for pot holes. Take the road to the very end and park.

You will see a trail angling sharply to the left. Take that trail. There is a trail intersection not far up when you see the yellow wilderness boundary sign.

Go left there and follow that trail all the way up to the gap between Stratton Bald and Naked Ground. Naked Ground, Haeo & Hangover will be on the trail to the right, Stratton & Bob Balds will be on the trail going to the left.

One confusing spot toward Hangover... don't take the "Hangover Lead" trail, that trail would take you away toward Slickrock Creek.... take the trail to the right at that point and then the one to the left, that takes you to the Hangover Rock.

We parked at Wolf Laurel trailhead.. You will need to get a National Geographic #784 topo map Hiwassee Fontana Lakes.. It's the best one for this area.. They're available on-line or at a lot of the local outfitter stores.. Go to Santeetla Gap on Hwy #143 out of Robbinsville NC and then you'll be looking for USFS Rd#81. It's a good gravel road. Then turn off on to USFS 81-F (which is toward Swan Cabin) and you'll come to Wolf Laurel. It's a three mile hike (one-way) to the Hangover.. Hope this helps and if you need any other info, let me know.

Chester Rowland