

# Horses

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all-day or multi-day trips through the national park. southeastpacktrips.com.

**Bandy Creek Stables:** Adjacent to the Bandy Creek Campground and Visitor Center in the Big South Fork, Bandy Creek Stables offer stable services for those who wish to board their horses. Long-term boarding is also available. 423-286-7433.

**Station Camp Horse Camp:** A National Park Service concessionaire operates this horse camp on the eastern edge of the Big South Fork NRA, along with a similar horse camp (Bear Creek) on the Kentucky side of the park. The campsite includes water and electrical hookups, tie-outs for horses,

restrooms with showers and a dump station. Dozens of miles of horse trails are immediately available from the campground. bigsouthforkhorsecamps.com.

**Charit Creek Lodge:** Located in a scenic valley deep within the Big South Fork backcountry, Charit Creek has been rated as one of the nation's best remote lodges. Charity Creek Lodge is housed on a farm that dates back to the early 19th century and offers a full range of amenities, including cabin and dormitory rentals, meals, restrooms and showers. In addition to horseback, the lodge is also accessible by foot and bike. Stalls are available for boarding horses. charitcreeklodge.com.

**Cabin rentals:** Several lodging options exist outside the Big South Fork campgrounds. (See the directory, page 34.) However, two offer direct access to the BSF's equestrian trails: Laurel Creek Retreat (laurelfork.com) and Wilderness

Resort (wildernessresort.com).

**Gear:** Equestrian supplies are available at South Fork Tack, located on S.R. 297 — the gateway to the Big South Fork NRA — in Oneida, Tenn. 423-569-6700.

## Popular rides in the Big South Fork

Because the network of trails in the Big South Fork NRA is so extensive, the National Park Service recommends that all horseback riders purchase a National Geographic Trails Illustrated map, which is color-coded and includes all trails within the national park. The map is available from the Scott County Visitor Center on U.S. Hwy. 27 in Helenwood, or the Bandy Creek Visitor Center in the Big South Fork.

**Bandy Creek:** The Bandy Creek Equestrian Trailhead is located west of the Bandy Creek Visitor Center off S.R. 297. A corral and water are available. The North

White Oak Loop is an 18.5-mile ride that includes the Leatherwood Overlook. The Jack's Ridge Loop is an 8.2-mile ride. The Charit Creek Lodge is 7.1 miles from Bandy Creek by way of the Jack's Ridge Loop Trail. The Duncan Hollow Trail is a 5.8-mile trail (one way) that provides access to Laurel Fork and Station Camp creeks.

**Cumberland Valley:** The Cumberland Valley Trailhead is located on a gravel road that exits S.R. 297 just west of the Big South Fork's west entrance. Cumberland Valley Loop is a 15.9-mile ride that includes the O&W Bridge and access to Zenith.

**Station Camp:** The Station Camp Trailhead is located on Station Camp Road just east of the Station Camp Horse Camp. It provides access to the 15.0-mile Pilot Wines Loop Trail, one of the most popular rides in the Big South Fork NRA.