

Tellico Village Hiking Club



Fontana Dam to Shuckstack Tower

Distance:
10.5 miles

Rating:
Difficult

Driving Time:
1.5 hours

Elevation Gain:
Approx. 2201 ft

Leader:
Bob Stewart
at 865-224-1778 or
rlsmks@gmail.com





FONTANA DAM TO SHUCKSTACK TOWER

Friday, May 13, 2022

Depart at 8AM from Lakeside Realty Parking Lot

This in and out hike, from Fontana Dam to Shuckstack fire tower, can offer one of those worth-the-effort, above the treetops 360 degree panoramas. Although only about 4,000 feet above sea level, Shuckstack is not as high as several other peaks in the Smokies, but it is positioned in a way to give outstanding views to those who climb it. Trees and surrounding vegetation limit views during the summer months and the only option for unobstructed views of the surrounding mountain ridges is climbing the steps up the old fire tower, which is no longer maintained by the park service. While the tower itself is a metal structure and still solid, the steps, railings and platforms may be in various stages of disrepair, and require careful navigation and individual discretion. The difficulty comes in the elevation gain on the "in portion of the hike", which is essentially 4 miles of almost straight up. The hike is on a portion of Appalachian Trail.

Note that this hike requires driving the Tail of the Dragon, US Hwy. 129, and some hikers have developed motion sickness on this road.

-  Hiking boots and hiking sticks are recommended.
-  Driving directions will be provided the morning of the hike.
-  Bring water and a trail lunch.
-  Passengers are asked to contribute \$6 to the driver to help cover gas, etc.