

FAVORITE HIKES: PETER SHARPE

My all time favorite hike is Nineteen Mile Brook to Carter Notch Hut. Spring, summer, fall, winter, raining, sunny, it doesn't matter to me (although I prefer the winter time). I enjoy it because there are usually others hiking it, so you can meet all sorts of new folks. It is a relatively easy trail that builds into the hardest part at the end, but even that isn't overly difficult. It is a trail that I am confident to do alone in any weather where there are very few junctions and the footing is sure at all times. With only a few river crossings, and bridges across those, there are some great places/views to stop and have a snack and drink.

The second choice is only that because of the distance. A few years ago I had the opportunity to hike in the Great Smoky Mountains. A friend and I journeyed down there in late spring time. We followed the AT from the southern point where the trail enters the park and hiked up to Clingmans Dome. The trails were very easy to follow (even in the fog/smoke) and in pretty good shape. The highlight of the trip was coming up to one of the meadows and seeing a herd of deer. They looked at us and went right back to grazing. It was awesome to be able to walk thru them without them caring about us. Because there is no hunting in the entire park, the animals are used to seeing folks and not having to be too afraid of them.