

Check out Dupont State Forest's Triple Falls and Hooker Falls!

By Lande Simpson
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If you are looking for a fairly easy hike to a waterfall, there are two great options. The first is Triple Falls in DuPont State Forest and the second is Hooker Falls, also in DuPont. You can hike both waterfalls in one day because they are both short and the trails lead into each other.

Triple Falls is great because it is a distinct path (if that is what you are in to) and has a pretty steep incline up a mountain to get the jaw dropping view of all three waterfalls.

At the beginning of the hike, you walk along the base of the river and there are usually people swimming in it if you come during the summer. Then you walk up a steep part of the mountain that gets you to an outlook that gives you the perfect photo opportunity for your Instagram or Snapchat story.

The one surprising thing that I will keep in mind for next time, is that the trail is fairly busy during the weekends with families and little kids, bikers, runners, couples, dogs, you name it. So, I would recommend going on a weekday when the trail is fairly quiet so you do not have to worry about being in the way of others and you can take in the beautiful forest and amazing waterfalls.

Hooker Falls is an extremely easy hike. It has a wide open path, there really is not any climbing or incline that you have to worry about and there is access to a swimming hole.

At the beginning you also walk along the base of the river and pass people and dogs swimming and maybe even a few people fishing for trout, then there is a wooden outlook that is looking over the top of the waterfall and people swimming in the water hole at the bottom of the fall.

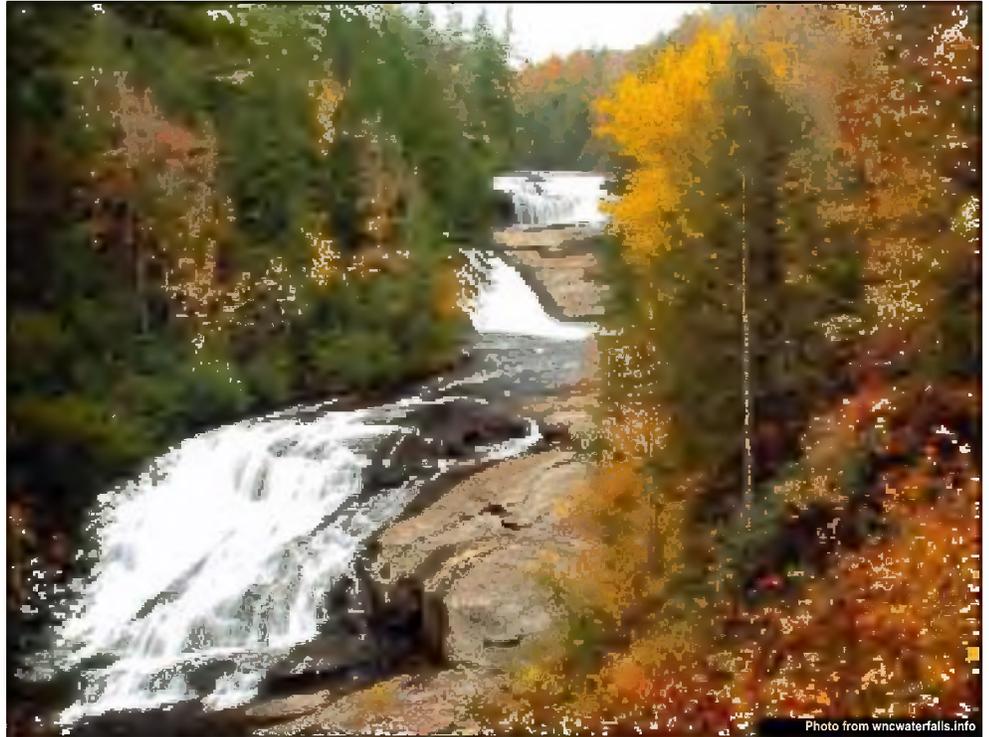


Photo from wncwaterfalls.info

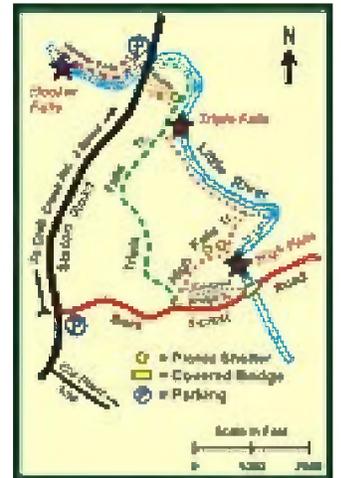
Dupont's Triple Falls in its autumn glory (now just a few weeks away).

Swimming here with friends when you are looking for a place to cool down would be a great idea, but swimming anywhere close to the waterfall or getting behind it is extremely dangerous and there have been several deaths due to it at Hooker Falls. So, if you do decide to swim there to cool off, please be smart.

As far as hiking and waterfalls go, Triple Falls and Hooker Falls are the places to go.

For easiest access to these falls, the Hooker Falls Parking Area in Dupont is your best bet. From there, you can also hike a short distance farther to High Falls, which can also be reached from the Buck Forest Parking Area.

Visit www.dupontforest.com/ for more info, including downloadable trail maps and driving directions.



Left: Hooker Falls is a popular place for swimmers to cool off on a hot day.

Below: Dupont Forest's extensive trail system is clearly marked with signs. Note that Dupont's roads are open only to motorized vehicles with a special permit for those with physical impairments.



Photo by John B. Padgett



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