

Walking the MitchelldalesSM — Orchard Road Walk

Distance: 3.5 miles

Time: Minimum of 2 hours

Accessibility: Easy walk on gravel road with very little traffic. Large tire wheelchair and all-terrain vehicles will work without any problems all over the trail and orchard except with the possibility of the entrance on the lower side if roped off.

Parking: Parking is available in several locations at the beginning, at the orchard building and at the end by the parkway.

Toilets: In the orchard building (check the hours)

Refreshments: Snacks at the orchard store, grill on Saturday and Sunday (check hours), Switzerland Café, Puerto Nuevo Mexican and several places in Spruce Pine – DT's sandwiches and City Drive In.

Closest National Park Centre: Museum of North Carolina Minerals Parkway & Hwy226

Route description (Please read before beginning)

1. Park at the edge of the road near the Parkway bridge or between the bridge and Altapass Road. Leave the parking area and follow the road under the Parkway bridge on the single lane. Follow the road around the curve keeping to the far right away from any potential traffic coming around the corner then go right on the Orchard Road.
2. Follow the road up a slight incline through the woods. Watch for the steps to the left that go down to the train tunnel. Going down the steps is not on the trail and can be very steep going and coming. Follow the Orchard Road to the building and continue to the Parkway.
3. Visit the Orchard Store for apples, snacks, souvenirs and ice cream and apple pie. Restrooms and drinks are available. (check hours)
4. Retrace your steps to parking or follow one of several trails through the orchard itself and back to Orchard Road.
5. At any point you can retrace your steps and return to the parking area.

[Click here for a walking map.](#)

Additional notes / points of interest

The Historic Orchard at Altapass is a community Nonprofit. Your support is appreciated and will help keep the Orchard opened for generations to come and help preserve the mountains of North Carolina. They have a great informative website: Altapassorchard.org. Many of the people working are volunteers. Check out the website in advance for all sorts of family friendly events including hayrides, local music, historic stories and other events. Also, remember that all purchases and donations help support the Orchard, one of the mountain Gems.