

River Fishing

Chattooga River

The Chattooga River begins in mountainous North Carolina as small rivulets, nourished by springs and abundant rainfall, high on the slopes of the Appalachian Mountains—the start of a 50-mile journey that ends at Lake Tugaloo between South Carolina and Georgia, dropping almost ½ mile in elevation.

The Chattooga was designated a wild and scenic river in 1974. It is one of the longest and most spectacular free-flowing mountain rivers in the Southeast. Over a distance of 50 miles, the river descends an average of 49 feet per mile from its headwaters in North Carolina to the state line between South Carolina and Georgia. The Chattooga offers some of the best whitewater boating and trout fishing in the region.

Chauga River

The Chauga River is a 31 mile long southern freestone river, flowing from its source near Mountain Rest, through the Andrew Pickens Ranger District and Sumter National Forests as a tributary of the Tugaloo River, where it joins the Seneca River and forms Lake Hartwell.

The headwaters of the Chauga are classified by the South Carolina DNR as "Outstanding Water Resources", and are known to locals as a rare and exciting stream for rainbow and brown trout, as well as red eye and other bass further down towards the lake.

Both the Chattooga and Chauga Rivers are hatchery supported rivers.

Fishing Guides



Chattooga River Fly Shop - Chattooga & Chauga Rivers
ChattoogaRiverFlyShop.com
 864.638.2806

Common Fish Species

Rainbow Trout
 Brooke Trout
 Brown Trout
 Redeye Bass
 Redbreast



Campsites

Chau Ram Park, Long Bottom Ford, South Cove, High Falls, Devils Fork, Earle's Ford and Burrell's Ford primitive campsites. Find more info on the Forestry Service website:
Fs.usda.gov

River Safety

Both rivers, especially the Chattooga, are powerful, and the Forest Service recommends reading about safety measures before going out on the rivers. Find a list of safety measures on Fs.usda.gov

Due to the backcountry nature of these rivers, for safety purposes, it is highly recommended to hire a guide for a fishing experience.

Fish Hatchery



Walhalla State Fish Hatchery

The Works Progress Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps built the Walhalla State Fish Hatchery (WSFH) in the 1930's. In 1996, supervision of the hatchery was transferred from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. The WSFH is the only cold water fish hatchery operated by the SCDNR.

WSFH raises brown, brook and rainbow trout for stocking the public waters of South Carolina. Most of the trout are cultured to a catchable size of 9-12" before they are released. Fingerling trout are also produced to enhance the trout fishery. Approximately 500,000 trout are produced and stocked annually by the WSFH. Very large trout (5-15 pounds) are also kept at the Hatchery on display for the public viewing enjoyment.

Both rivers feature "catch and release" Delayed Harvest areas from Nov. 1 through May 14th. Check Dnr.Sc.gov for rules and regulations for these areas.

Leave No Trace

The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics is a national organization that protects the outdoors by teaching and inspiring people to enjoy it responsibly. The Center accomplishes this mission by delivering cutting-edge education and research to millions of people across the country every year.

The Seven Principles

- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors



Interested in learning more about the Leave No Trace organization? Visit Lnt.org



Notes for Newcomers

- Fishing Licenses are required for all fishing. While a South Carolina Fishing License covers you on all areas of Lake Jocassee, some small tributaries cross into North Carolina. A North Carolina Fishing License must be purchased to fish up those streams.
- Lake Access Points are well marked.
- River Access Points and campgrounds are more remote. The roads to these points are typically gravel Forest Service roads, where signage can be difficult. Please prepare directions before-hand, or hire a guide.
- Please note that cell phone service on the Chattooga and Chauga are likely a No Go. Most areas do not have service of any kind. Tell someone where you're going, check in with the Forest Service ranger station, or hire a guide. Plan before you fish.
- Avoid all perfumes, colognes, and heavily scented deodorants, lotions, makeup and detergents. Mosquitoes and gnats are common on the lakes, but the rivers have heavy populations of biting flies and gnats that are attracted to those scents.
- Wear seasonal appropriate clothing and bring backup clothes. The lakes are more temperate, but the rivers can experience plunges in temperature, especially at higher elevations (Oconee, Pickens counties) along the water.

Accommodations

- Lake Hartwell Country Accommodations:
LakeHartwellCountry.com/Accommodations
- Visit Oconee SC:
VisitOconeeSC.com/Visit/Stay/
- AirBnB for River Fishing:
Airbnb.com/s/Mountain-Rest--SC--United-States/Homes

Reel in the memories

Fishing Pocket Guide
 Anderson | Oconee | Pickens
 South Carolina



Lake Fishing

Landings*

Lake Jocassee

- J1: Devils Fork 1
- J2: Devils Fork 2

Lake Keowee

- K1: Cane Creek
- K2: Crowe Creek
- K3: Fall Creek
- K4: High Falls
- K5: Keowee Town Access
- K6: Mile Creek
- K7: South Cove
- K8: Stamp Creek Access
- K9: Warpath

Common Fish Species

- Hybrid Bass
- Red Eye Bass
- Small Mouth Bass
- Large Mouth Bass
- Striped Bass
- White Bass
- Spotted Bass
- Rainbow Trout
- Brown Trout
- Brook Trout
- Catfish
- Bluegill
- Crappie
- Carp



State Records

Fish Species	Wt.	Place	Year	Angler	Angler's Hometown
Rainbow Trout	11-5	Lake Jocassee	1993	Scott Coggins	Travelers Rest, SC
Brown Trout	17-9.5	Lake Jocassee	1987	Larry Edwards	Pickens, SC
Redeye Bass	5-2.5	Lake Jocassee	2001	Randy Dickson	Westminster, SC
Smallmouth Bass	9-7	Lake Jocassee	2001	Terry Dodson	Rosman, NC
Spotted Bass	8-5	Lake Jocassee	2001	David Preston	Tryon, NC
Yellow Perch	3-4	Lake Keowee	1979	Danny Scarborough	Candler, NC

Landings*

Lake Hartwell

- H1: 18 Mile Creek
- H2: Apple Island
- H3: Asbury
- H4: Brown Road
- H5: Broyles
- H6: Camp Creek
- H7: Choestoa Park
- H8: Coneross Creek
- H9: Cove Inlet
- H10: Crescent
- H11: Denver
- H12: Double Springs
- H13: Durham Access Area
- H14: Fairplay
- H15: Friendship
- H16: Glenn Ford Access Area
- H17: Green Pond
- H18: Holders
- H19: Honea Path
- H20: Hurricane Creek
- H21: Island Point
- H22: Jacks
- H23: Jarrett Access Area
- H24: Lake Hartwell State Park
- H25: Lawrence Bridge
- H26: Martin Creek
- H27: Mullins Ford
- H28: Oconee Point
- H29: Ponderosa
- H30: Richland Creek
- H31: River Bend
- H32: River Forks
- H33: Sadlers Creek State Park
- H34: Seneca Creek
- H35: Singing Pines
- H36: South Union
- H37: Springfield Campground
- H38: Tabor Access
- H39: Timberland
- H40: Townville
- H41: Twelve Mile
- H42: Twin Lakes
- H43: Weldon
- H44: White City

Fishing Guides

- Blue Ridge Guide Service - Lake Jocassee
 864.710.1376 | Fish.jocassee.com
- Buster Green's Guide Service - Lake Hartwell
 864.277.2463 | PalmettoStateTearmTrail.com
- Chattooga River Fly Shop - Lake Tugaloo/Chattooga & Chauga Rivers
 864.638.2806 | ChattoogaRiverFlyShop.com
- Fishski Business - Lake Hartwell, Lake Jocassee, & Lake Keowee
 864.353.3438 | Fishski.info
- Jocassee Charters - Lake Jocassee
 864.280.9056 | JocasseeCharters.com
- Southern Appalachian Outdoors- Eastatoee River
 864.507.2195 | SAOPickens.com

*For complete location details, visit www2.Dnr.Sc.gov/ManagedLands/BoatRamp/BoatRampLake