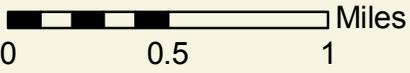


**Brooks and Sandstone Legend**

- |  |                |  |                 |  |               |
|--|----------------|--|-----------------|--|---------------|
|  | Amphitheater   |  | Park Trail      |  | Trail Name    |
|  | Campground     |  | Primary Route   |  | Stream        |
|  | Picnic Area    |  | Secondary Paved |  | Park Boundary |
|  | Trailhead      |  | Road, class 3   |  |               |
|  | Visitor Center |  | One-way Traffic |  |               |



To I-64 and Sandstone Visitor Center

Brooks Mountain Rd.

To Hinton and Rt. 20

To Hinton

Fall Br

20

26

New River  
River Rd.

Kates Br

Owens Br

Big Br

Brooks Br

Turner Br

# Trails of Brooks and Sandstone

Trail Name	Distance (mi/km)	Description	Directions
1 <b>Route 20 Overlook at Sandstone Falls</b>	 0.1/0.16	<b>Moderate</b> See all of Sandstone Falls at this scenic overlook, 600 feet above the river. This short, gravel walkway descends briefly from the parking lot to the view.	This roadside pull-off is on WV Route 20, 3 miles from I-64 exit 139 and the Sandstone Visitor Center or 8.5 miles north of Hinton.
2 <b>Gwinn Ridge Trail</b>	 3.0/4.83	<b>Strenuous</b> Slip on your hiking boots for this loop trail descending through a rocky forest. The trail starts and ends in an old field that passes under a power line, with some scenic views of the gorge.	Follow Brooks Mountain Road 2.5 miles, off WV Route 20 in Brooks.
3 <b>Sandstone Falls Boardwalk</b>	  0.2/0.32	<b>Easy</b> An accessible boardwalk crosses two bridges leading to islands and observation decks offering views of the falls and access to fishing areas. An unusual riparian ecosystem, the Appalachian Riverside Flatrock Community, surrounds the falls. Only plants that can withstand periodic flooding conditions survive.	Take River Road (WV Route 26) from the west end of the WV Route 20 bridge in Hinton. Follow this narrow road along the river for 9 miles to Sandstone Falls. Note: This road is single lane on some sections; please use extra caution.
4 <b>Island Loop Trail</b>	 0.5/0.8	<b>Easy</b> This short, rocky trail loops around the largest island below Sandstone Falls, leading past a fishing beach. The land on this island was once farmed, grazed, and timbered, and a grist mill also operated here. Natural field succession can now be seen here, as this site transitions to forest.	This trail starts and ends on the Sandstone Falls Boardwalk. See directions above.
5 <b>Big Branch Trail</b>	 2.0/2.74	<b>Strenuous</b> This creek-side, forest loop trail follows Big Branch, and includes several waterfalls. There are three creek crossings along Big Branch. A hotspot for spring wildflowers, the trail then passes an old farmstead and up a ridge. Several scenic views of the gorge and river can be seen along the ridge top. The trail then steeply descends to the trailhead, offering scenic views of Brooks Falls along the way.	Take River Road (WV Route 26) from the west end of the WV Route 20 bridge in Hinton. Follow this narrow road along the river for 5 miles to Brooks Falls. Note: This road is single lane on some sections; please use extra caution. Parking is at Brooks Falls Overlook; cross the road to the trailhead.