

Ocoee

Whitewater Center



Ocoee-Hiwassee Ranger District

3171 Hwy. 64
Benton, TN 37307
(423) 338-3300

Site of the 1996 Olympic Canoe/Kayak Competition, the Ocoee Whitewater Center is now a regional visitor center and day use recreation area. Water releases scheduled by TVA create an Olympic class whitewater venue. Local outfitters lead rafting trips on both this section and the next five mile section of the Ocoee River.

The Tanasi Trail System offers more than 30 miles of hiking and biking trails. Choose leisurely walks or mountain bike rides on shady riverside trails or a blistering, high energy trek down the Thunder Rock Express. Or spread a picnic under shade trees beside the river.

On-site naturalists lead conservation education programs, with hands on opportunities for both youths and adults to interact with the environment.

Directions: From the Ocoee Ranger Station, turn left onto U.S. 64 and travel east approximately 12 miles to the Ocoee Whitewater Center on the right.

Site Amenities: Ocoee Whitewater Center makes an impressive architectural statement with massive beams, native rockwork and grand river views. The stage is set for private gatherings, weddings, conferences and corporate retreats. For more information call (877) 692-6050 toll-free.

Native gardens honoring Olympic athletes and Cherokee Indians invite you to stroll through the grounds. A historic trail, built by Cherokee Indians and used by 19th century miners to transport copper ore by mules and wagons follows the river upstream. Along the way you can see rock formations deposited more than 750 million years ago. Hike the Rhododendron trail, which follows the river downstream with sections built on wood walkways above the Ocoee River. A Picnic Area is located alongside the river where you can enjoy lunch while watching the whitewater action. The Tanasi Trail System provides some of the best mountain biking opportunities in the southeast.

Be sure to visit the gift shop, which offers a selection of local artists' creations, nature oriented souvenirs and outdoor wear.

Requirements: There is limited short-term parking in front of the Visitor Center. For longer stays, there is plenty of parking just downstream. A day use fee of \$3.00/vehicle/day is required. With Golden or America the Beautiful pass, there is no charge.

Safety: The following rules are in place for visitor safety: Please check with the visitors center for scheduled water releases if you plan to be in the river bed.

- Pets must be on a leash.
- Discharging firearms and fireworks is not permitted.
- Alcoholic beverages and glass bottles are prohibited.

