Also, this Smoky Mountain site makes available information about weddings in the national park, shopping, the Appalachian Trail, Fall foliage, photos of waterfalls, wildlife, and wildflowers. A Brief Park History. From its inception in 1923, the idea for creating a national park of the Smoky Mountains area was fraught with seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Read a brief history of how the Great Smoky Mountains National Park came about and who the dedicated and visionary individuals were that stuck with the effort for 17 years until the Park’s dedication in 1940. Cades Cove. Cades Cove is the most visited part of the Park and for good reason. See more ideas about great Smoky Mountains, Bryson City, and Smoky Mountains. A week of adventure in Bryson City, NC - Great Smoky Mtns National Park â€“ The Wanderpreneurs - A Full Time RV Family Travel Blog. Bryson City, NC is a gem and an outdoor enthusiast heaven! Check out our jam-packed week of adventure. New Years Eve marked the last Great Smoky Mountains Railroadâ€™s Polar Express train ride of the season AND the only time the steam engine runs for this special event. Turn up the volume and listen to the steam whistle! Smoky Mountain Travel Guide Bryson City, Cherokee, Fontana, Nantahala. This hike is the epitome of the old adage, “You reap what you sow.” You will burn a lot of calories on the climb to your destination, but the view is as good as views get. Leave the lowlands via Lead Cove to intersect Bote Mountain Trail up to the Appalachian Trail, pass through Spence Field, and climb further still to the storied Rocky Top. If you are looking for great “day and overnight hikes” in the Smokies, this book is fabulous. It compares the trails by solitude, scenery, difficulty, and more, helping you pick a trail that you’re bound to like. With over 900 miles of trails in this national park, his knowledge of the Smokies environment, writing style, and accuracy has, once again, impressed me. You can tell that the writer himself has a love and appreciation for these mountains. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is a United States National Park located in a region of the Appalachian Mountains referred to as the Great Smoky Mountains, in a portion of east-central Tennessee and southwest North Carolina. With over 150 hiking trails extending for more than 850 miles (1,370 km), within its boundaries, including a seventy-mile segment of the Appalachian Trail, hiking is the most popular activity in the national park.