

The Saber Travels: Providence Canyon

Georgia's Little Grand Canyon

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Distance from Columbus: 43 miles. Best route: GA-1 S.

In the theme of travel locations close to home, this week the Saber is taking a look at Providence Canyon. Located in Lumpkin, Georgia (Stewart County), the Little Grand Canyon is one of the Seven Natural Wonders of Georgia. The Little Grand Canyon isn't quite natural, strictly speaking – the canyons were formed by poor farming practices that led to massive erosion, creating the area as we know it today.

The area offers much more than natural eye candy, though. For the intrepid hikers among us, there are two separate hiking trails of varied length. The first 'traditional' trail is three miles, and takes perhaps an hour or two. The second 'back country' trail is seven miles and should have much more time set aside to navigate through. All supplies need to be taken on to the trails when one departs, as no supply stations are available along the trails. Even so, the vegetation in the area is plentiful enough to lessen the impact of the heat.

The canyons cover an area of 1,003 acres and have a total of 2 picnic areas, 6 back country campsites, 2 pioneer campsites, and a group shelter. Providence Canyon is free to visit; the only fees one might face are parking costs. Be sure to keep an eye out for the rusted vehicles along the trail, near an abandoned home; all from the 1950s, park officials decided to leave the vehicles in place, as more environmental damage would be caused by their removal.

The Little Grand Canyon is the perfect day trip for someone looking to reconnect with nature and escape the city – and exams – for a few hours, or a great spot for an athletic-themed date!