

Spring Flowers & Fall Foliage

Peak season for wildflowers, fall foliage and other native shrubs can be difficult to predict in [Great Smoky Mountains National Park](#) due to a variety of factors that fluctuate from year to year. The bloom times and fall color seasons listed below are only “typical”, because exact times are next to impossible to predict in advance.



Spring Wildflowers

Visit the Park in mid to late April for the widest variety and most abundant display of blooming. However, late March and early April offer good blooms from some of the earliest flowers.



Flame Azalea

The Flame Azalea is technically a wild shrub with unmistakable, brilliant orange blooms. Low to Mid Elevations: April and May
High Elevations (including area “Balds”): Late June, and into early July



Mountain Laurel

The Mountain Laurel, like the Flame Azalea, is also a shrub. Look for this charming bloomer along the trails through the park. They are notorious for creating a “tunnel” effect through the dense forests. Look for its white and pink flowers from early May through June.



Rhododendrons

The “Rhodos”, as locals like to call them, found at elevations higher than 3,500’, bloom in June and are technically called “Catawba Rhododendrons”. The “Rhodo” more predominant at low to mid elevations are called “Rosebay” Rhododendrons, and bloom from June through July.



Fall Colors

When trying to plan your “Fall foliage tour” of the park and the surrounding mountains, elevation is key. At higher elevations the fall colors start to come alive during the first two weeks of October. At lower elevations, the colors typically change between mid to late October and on into the first part of November. Factors such as rain fall amounts and overall temperature have a great deal to do with how the leaves in our mountains react.