

Laurel Fork Rustic Retreat

If you're looking for a great spot for your next vacation or getaway, try Laurel Fork Rustic Retreat. They offer twelve spacious, luxurious, comfortable vacation homes/cabins in a gated community bordering the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area (BSFNRA). Getting away to spend quality time with family and friends is what a lot of folks dream about. Yet it is so easy for this to become a reality. For just a short drive from Knoxville, Nashville, Chattanooga, and other major cities, your family and friends can rent one of these grand chalets that are located just minutes from hiking and horseback trails. Our family along with two of our sons' friends - Jacob and Bryce spent the weekend at "Hanging it Up", one of the rentals in the Laurel Fork Rustic Retreat community. Each cabin is spacious and surrounded by three to five acres of woodland, some with magnificent overlooks. "Hanging it Up" is a fantastic cabin with a lot of character. It has a beautiful granite island in the wonderfully stocked kitchen ideal for entertaining which I really enjoyed. The boys had a wonderful time playing outside on the swings. We built a campfire in the fire pit out back and made s'mores one night. We all soaked in the hot tub and gazed at the canopy of stars overhead. The boys also delighted in the walks down the country road to the basketball hoop where they played basketball for hours, including some serious "around the world".

The great country lanes are quite suitable for hiking, walking, and even bike riding. One can ride or walk about 2.5 miles from a cabin to scenic Hwy. 294 without worries about traffic or wild dogs. The route is lined with pastures, cows, horses, and rolling hills. What a paradise! I had the opportunity to enjoy a little down time in the screened-in porch where I read a good book and watched in wonder at the abundance of birds at the bird feeders. The cabin's high ceilings and stunning windows opened up to the trees, wildlife, and the beautiful blue sky. Each room was decorated to perfection. The master bedroom had a blue

bird theme with a comfortable built in window settee to curl up and read or sleep. The upstairs loft offered lots of enjoyment for the boys, as they played foosball, watched TV and a movie, and just enjoyed the cabin lifestyle. The cabin has tile and hardwood floors throughout with delightful beds dressed in high thread count linens. You can enjoy satellite TV throughout the cabin. I was even able to check my email, as "Hanging it Up" has wireless internet. This was true luxury and a totally relaxing weekend. Our hosts, Inez and Jack Troxell retired from nursing and the park service with a vision to turn their family land into their dream retirement home and to develop this amazing piece of property into a great place for others to enjoy as well. They offer twelve gorgeous cabins that folks have built as their dream homes over the last ten years through their rental program. These vacation homes/cabins rival any cabin or chalet in Gatlinburg and the Great Smoky Mountains. As an added bonus there is no congestion here, no smog, and the rentals are very affordable. Each cabin has its own personality and run anywhere from \$125.00 to \$219.00 per night with cabin capacity ranging from 6-12 people - all dependent upon the number of bedrooms and amenities. Many of the cabins have multiple night discounts, highlighted on the easy to navigate website -

www.laurelfork.com. There is a lot to do at Laurel Fork Rustic Retreat and the great outdoors of the BSFNRA including great hikes, such as the Yellow Cliff Trailhead for riders and hikers which connects to some of the other great Big South Fork trails. Even if you don't hike or trail ride, what a great way to relax, immerse in God's beauty around you, soak in the hot tub, and enjoy the simple lifestyle with family and friends. Come for a weekend retreat, a special occasion, or book a week in the Big South Fork and let the Troxell family spoil you with their wonderful southern hospitality. Bring a group of friends to help share in the experience. You'll be glad you did. For reservations, call 423-286-5135 or log onto: www.laurelfork.com.

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