



# Hiking Old Rag Mountain

**Park Emergency Number: (800) 732-0911**

Old Rag Mountain is a popular hike in Shenandoah National Park. The trailhead for this hike is at the park's boundary; however, parking is *extremely* limited. Parking is **not** permitted along the road or on private property. However, a large parking area is available .8 mile from the trailhead at the Old Rag Parking Area near Nethers on Route 600.

## Directions to Old Rag Parking Area

From Sperryville, Route 211, turn onto Route 522 and follow it south for .8 mile. Turn right on Route 231, follow 8 miles, turn right onto Route 601 and follow signs to the parking area. Old Rag parking is approximately 3 miles from Route 601.

From Madison, Route 29 Business, turn onto Route 231 and follow it for 12.8 miles. Turn left onto Route 602. Follow signs for the parking area. Old Rag parking is approximately 3 miles from the turn onto Route 602.

## To Old Rag from Berry Hollow

Some folks prefer to start from the Berry Hollow Parking area near Whiteoak Canyon. Take Route 231 South past the turnoff for Nethers. Continue south to Route 670 near Banco. Turn right at Syria, then left onto Route 600. Go past the Whiteoak Canyon parking area to Berry Hollow. The hike starts on the Berry Hollow Fire Road and then takes the Saddle Trail to the summit (avoiding the rock scramble). Roundtrip hike is a strenuous 5.4 miles. *Parking is extremely limited at Berry Hollow.*

## Fees

Visitors hiking Old Rag must have a valid Shenandoah National Park entrance permit. Seven (7) day permits or yearly passes may be purchased from rangers, when present, or via self-pay in the Old Rag parking area. Thanks to a Federal Fee Demonstration program, 80% of your entrance fee is returned to the park to support previously unfunded maintenance, resource management, visitor services, and trail rehabilitation projects.

## Safety

Be prepared. Take plenty of water and wear sturdy shoes. Food, extra layers of clothing, and a flashlight are also recommended. Do not attempt to hike Old Rag if the rocks are wet or icy. Stay on the trail. Stay together and do not allow children to hike ahead. Allow enough time to complete your hike before dark. **There is no public transportation in the Old Rag area.**

## Pets

Pets are NOT permitted on the Ridge and Saddle Trails—alternate hikes are listed below. Pet owners have the special responsibility of following the park regulations for pets. Pets must be kept on a lead no longer than 6 feet while they are in the park. This is for the protection of the park, its wildlife, for the pet's safety, and the safety of others.

### Alternate Hikes for Visitors With Pets:

- **Robertson Mountain** - 4.25 miles round trip to summit, views. Fairly steep climb.
- **Nicholson Hollow Trail to Corbin Cabin** - 6.9 miles round trip to renovated mountain cabin along mountain stream. Moderate climb.
- **Nicholson Hollow Trail to Junction of Corbin Mountain Trail** - 1.84 miles round trip. Fairly easy hike along stream.
- **Nicholson Hollow/Corbin Mountain** - 9.46 miles circuit, moderately strenuous along a mountain stream and through woods. Take Nicholson Hollow Trail to Indian Run Trail to Corbin Mountain Trail.

## Backcountry Camping

There are limited opportunities for backcountry camping in the Old Rag area. Camping is prohibited above 2800' on Old Rag. Park boundary limitations must be observed and neighbors' property rights respected. Please do not trespass on private property.

A backcountry camping permit is required and backcountry camping regulations are strictly enforced. The permit can be obtained at park entrance stations, visitor centers, or at a self-registration station. The self-registration station is located in the Old Rag parking area. Note that Old Rag and Byrds Nest shelters are for day use only. Visitors may purchase detailed hiking maps at park visitor centers, entrance stations, and from some local merchants in the Old Rag area.

**Leave No Trace** of your visit. Pack out all trash and do not disturb, damage, or remove wildlife, plants, rocks, or historical artifacts.

Map available online at [www.nps.gov/shen](http://www.nps.gov/shen)