



## Old Rag Circuit Hike

- 🔄 9.2-mile circuit      ⌚ 7.5 hours hiking time  
⚠️ Very strenuous      ⬆️ 2,380-ft. elevation gain

From Old Rag Parking, walk along Route 600. Pass the Nicholson Hollow Trailhead (on the right). The Ridge Trail starting point is just ahead. Take the blue-blazed Ridge Trail to the left. Continue along the Ridge Trail, across the rock scramble and descend on the Saddle Trail. The Saddle Trail becomes a Fire Road after you pass Old Rag Shelter. At the T-intersection near the bulletin board, **go right and immediately right again** (see illustration) at the fork onto Weakley Hollow Fire Road to return to your starting point.



### Hiking Old Rag

Old Rag Mountain is a very popular hike in Shenandoah National Park. It's best to plan your hike for a weekday since parking is limited and the trail can be quite crowded on the weekends. Although Old Rag is in Shenandoah National Park, parking is outside of the park boundary near Nethers on Route 600, 0.8 mile from the trailhead. **Do not park along the road or on private property.**

### Fees

Visitors hiking park trails must have a valid Shenandoah National Park entrance permit. Seven-day permits or annual passes may be purchased from rangers, when present, or via self-pay in the Old Rag parking area. Several local residents offer parking on their property for a fee. You must still purchase a Park entrance permit.

### Pets

Pets are NOT permitted on the Ridge and Saddle Trails. Alternate hikes listed below.

### Alternate Hikes - Visitors With Pets

*Pets must be kept on a lead at all times for the protection of Park resources and for the pet's and visitors' safety.*

**Robertson Mountain Trail** - 7.8 miles round trip to summit. Fairly steep climb with a stream crossing. Take Weakley Hollow Fire Road to Robertson Mountain Trail.

**Nicholson Hollow Trail** - Follow to the junction of Corbin Mountain Trail. 3.5 miles round trip. Fairly easy hike along stream.

### Directions to Parking Area

**From Sperryville** - From Route 211, turn onto Route 522 and follow it south for 0.8 mile. Turn right on Route 231, follow 8 miles, turn right onto Route 601 and follow signs to the parking area, approximately 3 miles.

**From Madison** - From 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.

**From Berry Hollow** - You might prefer to start from the Berry Hollow parking area near Whiteoak Canyon, because **this hike allows you to get to the summit without having to navigate the rock scramble.** From Sperryville, start by taking Route 231 South past the turnoff for Nethers. From Madison, start from Route 29 Business, turning onto Route 231. Once on Route 231 (from either Sperryville or Madison), turn onto Route 670 near Banco. Turn right at Syria, then left onto Route 600. Go past the Whiteoak Canyon parking area to Berry Hollow parking area. The hike starts on the Berry Hollow Fire Road and then takes the Saddle Trail to the summit. This roundtrip hike is a strenuous 5.4 miles. Parking is extremely limited.

### Backcountry Camping

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

### Backcountry Camping (cont.)

A backcountry camping permit is required and backcountry camping regulations are strictly enforced. Get the permit at an entrance station, visitor center, or at a self-registration station. A self-registration station is located in the Old Rag parking area. Old Rag and Byrds Nest shelters are for day use only. Visitors may purchase detailed hiking maps at park visitor centers, online at [www.snpbooks.org](http://www.snpbooks.org), and from some local merchants.

### Leave No Trace

- Pack out all trash.
- Do not disturb, damage, or remove wildlife, plants, rocks, or artifacts.
- Campfires are prohibited.
- There is a pit toilet at Old Rag Shelter.
- Stay on the trail at all times.

### Safety

- Be prepared for emergencies: bring flashlights, extra layers of clothing, food, and plenty of water.
- Be sure you know what time it gets dark and plan for extra time. Sometimes, particularly on weekends, there can be a significant wait to navigate certain portions of the trail.
- Do not attempt to hike Old Rag when the rocks are wet or icy.
- Do not allow children to hike ahead.
- Cell phone service is unreliable.
- There is no public transportation.
- You will see handwritten numbers below the blue blazes along the trail. In the event of an emergency please note the closest number to the incident and include this when you report the emergency.