

Shenandoah National Park

Backcountry Camping Trip Guide



Trip Name: AT: North District

Description: Views including Compton Peak and Mt. Marshall, outstanding geology

Entry: Compton Gap Boundary (North District; East side; Route # 610)

Exit: 32 MP - Thornton Gap

Map(s): PATC # 9 North District

Level: Experienced

Total Length: 25 to 27 miles

Day One

Campsite: AT (1A) Boundary to Gravel Springs - backcountry

7 to 8 miles

Park at Chester Gap.

Hike up Compton Gap Trail, 0.5 mile.

Turn left onto the Appalachian Trail (AT) and hike south 6 to 7 miles.

(Be sure to take both side trails at Compton Peak; add 0.4 mile.)

Look for a place to camp between Hogwallow Flats and North Marshall.

Day Two

Campsite: Piney Ridge Trail - backcountry

8 to 10 miles

Continue south on the AT another 7.4 to 8.4 miles.

Pick up water at Range View Cabin -no camping here without renting cabin- (add 0.2 mile).

Hike down Piney Ridge Trail up to 1 mile to look for a place to camp.

Day Three

10 to 11 miles

Return to the AT (up to 1 mile).

Hike south 9.6 miles to Thornton Gap, U.S. Highway 211.

Notes

If you have not obtained a backcountry permit before your hike, you may obtain one shortly after hiking up Compton Gap Trail, by turning right on the AT and hiking less than 0.1 mile to a self-registration station.
