

Shenandoah National Park

Backcountry Camping Trip Guide



Trip Name: AT through SNP, average 17 miles per day

Description: Appalachian Trail through Shenandoah NP with Doyles and Jones waterfalls: Wolfe to Denton

Entry: 105 MP - Rockfish Gap/South Entrance

Exit: North AT/Tom Floyd Boundary (North District; East side; Route # 601)

Map(s): PATC #9 - 11 All Districts

Level: Experienced or Advanced

Total Length: 121.1 miles

Day One

Campsite: AT (3F) Jarman Gap - Rockfish Gap * - backcountry

12.3 miles (plus 0.2 if you still need to pick up permit)

Hike north on Appalachian Trail (AT) 12 miles from the Paul C. Wolfe Shelter.

Obtain your free and required backcountry permit at the self-registration station on the AT just north of Rockfish Gap.

Turn left toward Calf Mountain Hut, hiking 0.3 mile.

Camp at the shelter.

Day Two

Campsite: Jones Run Trail - backcountry

17.6 miles

Return to the AT, 0.3 mile and hike north 14.8 miles.

Turn right onto Jones Run Trail and hike downhill 2.5 miles, enjoying a 42' waterfall.

At the junction of Jones Run and Doyles River, hike downstream to find a place to camp.

Day Three

Campsite: AT (2E) Bearfence Mtn- Swift Run * - backcountry

18.5 miles

Hike uphill on Doyles River Trail 2.2 miles, viewing two falls – 63' and 28'.

Turn right onto the AT and hike north 16.2 miles.

Turn left to Hightop Hut, hiking 0.1 mile; camp at the hut or designated campsites.

Day Four

Campsite: Central District developed areas - campground or cabin

20.1 miles

Return to the AT, 0.1 mile and hike north 19.7 miles.

Either register to camp at Big Meadows Campground, or stay in Big Meadows Lodge.

Day Five

Campsite: AT (1D) Beahms Gap - Rt 211 * - backcountry

20 miles

Return to the AT, about 0.3 mile and hike north 19.5 miles.

Turn right to Pass Mountain Hut, hiking 0.2 mile; camp at the hut or designated campsites.

Day Six

Campsite: AT (1B) Gravel Spr - Elkwallow Gap * - backcountry

13.7 miles

Return to the AT, 0.2 mile and hike north 13.3 miles.

Turn left to Gravel Springs Hut, hiking 0.2 mile; camp at the hut or designated campsites.

Day Seven

18.9 miles

Return to the AT, 0.2 mile and hike north 18.7 miles to the Denton Shelter.

Notes

This hike starts at the Paul C. Wolfe shelter, south of Shenandoah National Park. You will enter the park on the first day, at Rockfish Gap. You will exit the park on day six at Possums Rest. The Denton shelter is north of Shenandoah National Park.

Unless you are a thru-hiker, do not plan your trip along the AT in Shenandoah National Park from mid-May through mid-July! While the AT in the park is always busy, this is when the north-bound thru hikers come through and there will not be any camping available at the huts or designated campsites.