

Shenandoah National Park

Backcountry Camping Trip Guide



Trip Name: Brown Mountain and Rocky Mountain Run

Description: Wilderness valley, excellent camping and fishing, great views

Entry: 77 MP - Brown Mtn OL

Exit: 77 MP - Brown Mtn OL

Map(s): PATC #11 South District

Level: Experienced or Strenuous Beginner

Total Length: 10 to 13 miles

Day One

Campsite: Big Run Portal/Loop Trails - backcountry

Hike Brown Mountain Trail 5.3 miles.

Turn onto Big Run Portal Trail and find a place to camp within a mile or so.

Day Two

Continue upstream on Big Run Portal Trail, a total 1.4 miles from Brown Mountain Trail junction.

Turn left on Rocky Mountain Run Trail and hike 2.7 miles.

Turn right onto Brown Mountain Trail and hike 0.7 mile to return to vehicle.

Notes

Excellent camping and fishing is available throughout the Big Run drainage. You may extend your hike by continuing up Big Run Portal Trail past Rocky Mountain Run Trail and backtracking the following day. (You could add as much as 3 miles round trip.) This wilderness valley is well worth exploring.

Groups – You will find enough space for a group of 10 to camp by looking for a site downstream on Big Run after you finish hiking Brown Mountain Trail. (Do not cross the bridge, just turn right after finishing Brown Mountain Trail and hike off trail, downstream, to find a place to camp.)

The multiple stream crossings on Big Run Portal Trail can be knee to waist high when the water is up. Beware in the spring and after heavy rains!

Options

If you need a shorter first day you have options (not for groups):

*One: You can pack in your water for the first night. There are places to pristine-site dry- camp on Brown Mountain Trail in a little over one mile.

*Two: You may reverse the hike, hiking 0.7 miles on Brown Mountain Trail, then turning left onto Rocky Mountain Run Trail at the junction, hiking nearly 3 miles until you find some level places to camp.
