

Shenandoah National Park

Backcountry Camping Trip Guide



Trip Name: Corbin Cabin and Nicholson Hollow

Description: Waterfalls, park history, cascading streams, swimming holes

Entry: 38 MP - Corbin or Nicholson Parking

Exit: 38 MP - Corbin or Nicholson Parking

Map(s): PATC #10 Central District

Level: Beginner

Total Length: 4 miles

Day One

Campsite: Corbin Cabin Cut-off - backcountry

1.3 to 3.7 miles

Cross Skyline Drive to the concrete post marking the start of the trail.

Hike down Corbin Cabin Cut-off Trail 1.3 miles

Before crossing the stream (Hughes River), turn left and hike downstream.

Look for a place to camp, remembering that you must be at least 100 yards away from the cabin and 10 yards away from the stream.

If you prefer a longer hike, continue across the stream to Nicholson Hollow Trail.

Turn left onto Nicholson Hollow Trail and hike about 2 additional miles to find a place to camp.

Day Two

2.7 to 4.9 miles

Hike to Corbin Cabin (0.1 mile to 2.3 miles).

Hike uphill on Nicholson Hollow Trail for 1.8 miles.

Turn left, hiking along Skyline Drive for 50 yards.

Turn right onto the connecting trail and hike 0.1 mile to the Appalachian Trail (AT).

Turn right, hiking northbound on the AT 0.7 mile.

Turn right, hiking 50 yards to Corbin Cabin parking area.

Notes

The Hughes River, which runs through Nicholson Hollow, can run very high in the spring or after heavy rains (knee to waist high). The trail crosses the river several times, so be prepared. You will have more than one crossing if you choose to hike downstream.

The historic Corbin Cabin sleeps up to 12 persons, and is available for rent from the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. You can obtain more information from www.patc.net.

There are good places to camp along Nicholson Hollow in the miles below Corbin Cabin, especially near the junction with Hot-Short Mountain Trail. (If you choose to camp when you are near the cabin, remember that you must camp at least 100 yards away from the cabin, even if part of your group has rented the cabin. You also must be at least 50 yards from cultural sites such as cabin ruins.)

Options

There are plenty of areas to explore around Nicholson Hollow. If you would like to have a basecamp for two days, be sure to choose a pre-existing campsite or reserve the cabin. Bring a good map along and enjoy an extra day of hiking in this wilderness area.
