

Backcountry Camping Trip Guide

Two Nights

National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
Shenandoah National Park
Emergency: 1-800-732-0911



Corbin Mountain and Nicholson Hollow, 2 nights

Standard - Circuit

Level: Strenuous Beginner

Total Length: 11.6 to 25 miles

Trip Description: Wilderness area, cascades, park history, and swimming holes

Entry: 38 MP - Corbin or Nicholson Parking

Exit: 38 MP - Corbin or Nicholson Parking

Map(s): PATC #10 Central District

Day One

Campsite: Nicholson Hollow Trail - backcountry

7.6 miles

Hike down Nicholson Hollow Trail 1.7 miles.

Turn right onto Indian Run Trail and hike another 1.7 miles.

Turn left onto Corbin Mountain Trail, hiking 3.8 miles.

Turn left onto Nicholson Hollow Trail and look for a pre-existing campsite in the next 0.4 mile.

Day Two

Campsite: Nicholson Hollow Trail - backcountry

0 mile to 14 miles - very flexible

There are many day-hiking possibilities for your second day in this area; just be sure to bring a good topographic map and pay attention to the cement posts since it can get confusing.

Day Three

4 to 4.5 miles

Hike up Nicholson Hollow Trail 4 to 4.5 miles to return to your vehicle.

Notes

You will need an early start to hike the longer day on Day One. Remember to leave yourself plenty of time and energy to find a place to camp. Hike this circuit in the other direction if you are unsure you will have enough time at the end of the day.

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. The plus side is the excellent swimming holes which exist even when it is dry.

If you have time left after you set up camp on your first day, or if you want to explore the area on your second morning, hike downstream to find a large swimming hole with a small waterfall coming into it. Be sure to properly store your food and scented items if you leave the camp unattended.