

Backcountry Camping Trip Guide

One Night

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



Furnace, Jones, and Austin from the boundary

Standard - Circuit

Level: Experienced

Total Length: 17.6 miles

Trip Description: Spectacular mountains, three waterfalls, and geology

Entry: Madison Run Boundary
South District; West side; Route # 663

Exit: Madison Run Boundary
South District; West side; Route # 663

Map(s): PATC #11 South District

Day One

Campsite: Jones Run Trail - backcountry

8.8 miles

From the gate at the boundary, hike up Madison Run Fire Road 0.1 mile.

Turn right onto Furnace Mountain Trail and hike 3.4 miles.

(At 1.6 miles, reach junction with trail to summit of Furnace Mountain. Add 1 mile roundtrip to see excellent views from summit.)

Turn left onto Trayfoot Mountain Trail, hiking 0.5 mile.

Turn left onto Blackrock Spur Trail and hike 0.1 mile.

Turn left onto the Appalachian Trail (AT) and hike north 1.2 miles.

Turn right onto Jones Run Trail, hiking 2.5 miles.

Look for a place to camp downstream of the Jones Run and Doyles River confluence.

Day Two

8.8 miles

Hike upstream on Doyles River Trail 2.2 miles.

Turn left onto the AT and hike south 1.6 miles.

Turn right onto Big Run Loop Trail, hiking 0.7 mile to a four-way junction.

Stay straight (don't turn right on Big Run Loop), now on Rockytop Trail, and hike 0.4 mile.

Turn left onto Austin Mountain Trail, hiking 3.2 miles.

Turn right on Madison Run Fire Road, hiking 0.7 mile to return to the park boundary.

Notes

To take this trip, you'll need to get an early start on the first day.

Jones Run and Doyles River have three excellent waterfalls. Austin Mountain Trail, Furnace Mountain summit, and Blackrock summit have some excellent views as well as an interesting geologic story. You can get more information on each of these areas by purchasing a hiking guide.

In the spring and after heavy rains the stream crossing on Jones Run can be challenging or even dangerous. Doyles River has stream crossings as well.