

Backcountry Camping Trip Guide

Two Nights

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



Hannah Run and White Rocks, 2 nights

Standard - Circuit

Level: Experienced

Total Length: 16.5 to 18.5 miles

Trip Description: Waterfalls, park history, swimming holes; access from Old Rag boundary

Entry:

Exit:

Map(s): PATC #10 Central District

Day One

Campsite: Hannah Run - backcountry

2.6 to 3.6

Hike from parking area to Nicholson Hollow trailhead, up to 0.6 mile

Hike up Nicholson Hollow Trail, 2 miles.

Turn right onto Hannah Run Trail and look for a place to camp in the next mile.

Day Two

Campsite: Hazel River Trail - backcountry

6 to 8 miles

Continue hiking on Hannah Run Trail 1.5 to 2.5 miles (depending on campsite).

Turn right onto Catlett Mountain Trail for 200 feet.

Turn left onto Catlett Spur Trail and hike 1.1 miles.

Turn left onto Hazel Mountain Trail, hiking 0.6 mile.

Turn right onto White Rocks Trail and hike 2.4 miles. Be sure to take the cave/falls side trail where you can also get water (0.4 mile roundtrip).

Turn left onto Hazel River Trail and look for a place to camp in the next mile.

There are several places to swim in the Hazel River.

Day Three

7.3 to 8.3 miles

Hike upstream on Hazel River Trail (retracing your steps part of the way) for 1.6 to 2.6 miles.

Turn left on Hazel Mountain Trail and hike 1.2 miles.

Hazel Mountain Trail ends at intersection of Hot-Short Mountain Trail and Pine Hill Gap Trail.

Follow Hot-Short Mountain Trail for 2.1 miles until it ends at Nicholson Hollow Trail.

Turn left onto Nicholson Hollow Trail, hiking 1.8 miles to SR 600.

Hike to your vehicle, up to 0.6 mile.

Notes

Both the Hughes River, which runs through Nicholson Hollow, as well as Hazel River can run very high in the spring or after heavy rains (knee to waist high). Each trail crosses the river several times, so be prepared. The plus side is the excellent swimming holes that exist even in drought.

While this is a popular place on the weekends, during the week you can often have this wilderness area to yourself.

Options

This entire area lends itself to flexible mileages. If this itinerary doesn't quite meet your desires, get out the map and adjust your route.