

Shenandoah National Park

Backcountry Camping Trip Guide



Trip Name: Keyser, Piney, and Jeremys Run

Description: Wilderness ridges and valleys

Entry: Keyser Run Boundary (North District; East side; Route # 614)

Exit: Keyser Run Boundary (North District; East side; Route # 614)

Map(s): PATC # 9 North District

Level: Experienced

Total Length: 25 miles

Day One

Campsite: Piney Branch Trail (above Hull Schl) - backcountry

4.7 to 5.3 miles

Park on the boundary off of State Route 614.

Hike up Keyser Run Fire Road 1.2 miles.

Turn left onto Hull School Trail and hike 0.7 mile.

Turn right onto Piney Branch Trail and hike 2.8 miles.

Turn right onto Pole Bridge Link Trail, 0 to 0.6 mile.

Look for a place to camp along Pole Bridge Link or Piney Branch Trails.

Day Two

Campsite: Jeremys Run Trail - backcountry

8 to 9 miles

Return to Piney Branch Trail by hiking up to 0.6 mile.

Turn right to continue going up Piney Branch Trail 1.4 miles.

Turn left onto the Appalachian Trail (AT) and hike 1.9 miles.

Turn right onto Jeremys Run Trail, hiking 4 to 5 miles.

Look for camping beginning 1 mile above Neighbor Mountain Trail intersection.

Day Three

Campsite: Hull School Trail - backcountry

8.3 to 9.3 miles

Continue on Jeremys Run Trail 0.5 mile to 1.5 miles to Neighbor Mountain Trail (5.4 miles from AT).

Turn left, hiking Neighbor Mountain Trail 5.6 miles. Go past Byrd's Nest #4 (day use only shelter) on Neighbor Mountain Trail and down the service road to Skyline Drive.

Cross Skyline Drive and hike Hull School Trail about 2.2 miles.

Look for a place to camp 0.5 mile upstream or downstream from the intersection.

Day Four

3.4 miles (or 9 miles with optional hike on Little Devils Stairs Trail)

Continue on Hull School Trail another 2.2 miles.

Turn right onto Keyser Run Fire Road and hike 1.2 miles to return to vehicle.

If you still have the energy, drop your packs at the vehicle and hike up Little Devils Stairs Trail and down Keyser Run Road for a beautiful 5.5-mile loop.

Notes

There are 15 stream crossings on Jeremys Run and the water can be knee to waist high in the spring and after heavy rains! The water crossings on Piney Branch aren't as frequent, but can also be challenging. There are many legal, pre-existing campsites along Jeremys Run (and a few persistent illegal campsites, so be careful).

Little Devils Stairs can be hazardous if going downhill, especially with a full backpack. This beautiful but slippery hike is most enjoyable hiked uphill with a small daypack.

Give yourself plenty of time to find a place to camp in the Pole Bridge/Piney Branch and Hull School/Thornton River areas. There are level areas to camp, but you may need to hike a distance from the trail.