

Backcountry Camping Trip Guide

Two Nights

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



Loft Mountain and Jones Run, 14.4 miles

Standard - One way

Level: Strenuous Beginner or Experienced

Total Length: 14.4 miles

Trip Description: Mountaintop campground; excellent views, geology, and three waterfalls

Entry: 78 MP - Ivy Creek OL

Exit: 87 MP - Blackrock Gap

Map(s): PATC #11 South District

Day One

Campsite: South District developed areas - campground or cabin

5 miles

Hike south on Appalachian Trail (AT) about 5 miles to Loft Mountain Campground.

See note below on camping at Loft Mountain.

Day Two

Campsite: Doyles River Trail - backcountry

4.4 miles

Hike south on AT about 2 miles (may be more or less depending on campsite).

Turn left onto Doyles River Trail, hiking 2.2 miles.

Camp downstream from the confluence of Doyles River and Jones Run.

Day Three

5 miles

Hike up Jones Run Trail 2.5 miles.

Turn left onto AT and hike south 2.5 miles to Blackrock Gap.

(Be sure to enjoy the views and geology at Blackrock.)

Notes

Loft Mountain Campground generally opens sometime in May and closes the end of October. Since the sites are first-come, first-served, the campground often fills to capacity on weekends. Plan to either check into your site when spotting a vehicle on the first day, or to arrive by 4:00 p.m. on a Friday (earlier on a holiday weekend).

Options

You can easily shorten or extend the first and last days by changing where you access the AT.