

Shenandoah National Park

Backcountry Camping Trip Guide



Trip Name: Mount Marshall Boundary, Bluff, and AT, 2 nights

Description: Flexible hike from the boundary, wilderness forest with many side trip options

Entry: Mt Marshall Boundary (North District; East side; Route # 625)

Exit: Mt Marshall Boundary (North District; East side; Route # 625)

Map(s): PATC # 9 North District

Level: Experienced or Advanced

Total Length: 16 miles

Day One

Campsite: Mount Marshall Trail - backcountry

2 miles

Park on 625 at the Mt. Marshall Trail Boundary.

Hike up Mt. Marshall Trail about 1.8 miles.

Look for a place to dry-camp, in the vicinity of the Jordon River Trail intersection.

Either bring water, or hike down to Jordon River Trail to get water.

Day Two

Campsite: AT (2D) Lewis Spr-Bearfence Mtn - backcountry

7.4 to 9.4 miles

Hike uphill on Mt. Marshall Trail about 0.4 mile.

Turn left onto Bluff Trail and hike 3.8 miles.

Stay on main trail to Gravel Springs Hut (get water from the spring).

Hike up spur trail to Appalachian Trail (AT), 0.2 mile.

Hike north on the AT 3 to 5 miles.

Dry-camp along the AT between North Marshall and Jenkins Gap.

Day Three

6.4 to 8.4 miles

Continue north on the AT another 0.7 mile to 2.7 miles (5.5 miles from Gravel Springs Gap).

Turn right to access Skyline Drive through Jenkins Gap Parking.

Hike south on Skyline Drive a short distance to Mt. Marshall trailhead.

Turn left onto Mt. Marshall Trail and hike 5.7 miles to your vehicle.

Notes

Camping:

Intermediate level – If staying out for a total of three nights, you may camp one night at Gravel Springs Hut.

Advanced level – There are many options for camping on Mt. Marshall Trail and the AT, also Browntown Trail– both at the top and bottom, and on portions of Big Devils Stairs Trail. With some exploration, you could find a place to camp on any of the side trails listed above.

Options

Route options: 16 miles as described above, see map for additions.

Add additional 3.2 miles roundtrip to include Big Devils Stairs Trail;
and/or add additional 5.6 miles round trip to include Harris Hollow Trail;
and/or add additional 6.8 miles round trip to include Browntown Trail;
and/or add additional 2 miles round trip to include Jenkins Gap Trail;
and/or add additional 2.6 miles round trip to include Jordan River Trail.

One-night trip – Combine days one and two into your first day (9 to 11 miles), and camp along the AT. Then complete day three on day two. Or in reverse, hike day three backwards on day one (6.4 to 8.4 miles), then complete days two and three on day two.

Three or more nights - See notes on camping and a good map.