

Backcountry Camping Trip Guide

One Night

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



Mount Marshall and Bluff, 1 Night

Standard - Circuit

Level: Experienced

Total Length: 13.4 to 30 miles

Trip Description: Flexible hike through a wilderness forest with many side trip options

Entry: 12 MP - Jenkins Gap

Exit: 12 MP - Jenkins Gap

Map(s): PATC # 9 North District

Day One

Campsite: Mount Marshall Trail - backcountry

4 miles if camping near Mt. Marshall/Jordan River intersection
Park at Jenkins Gap.

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

Turn left onto Mt. Marshall Trail and hike 3.5 miles.

(If camping near Mt. Marshall/Jordan River Trail intersection, continue on Mt. Marshall Trail another 0.4 mile and look for a place to camp off to your right.)

Day Two

10.1 miles if you camped near the Mt Marshall/Jordan River Trail intersection

Hike to Bluff Trail (if necessary, 0.4 from Jordan River Trail).

Turn right onto Bluff Trail and hike 3.8 miles.

Stay on main trail to Gravel Springs Hut (spring available).

Hike up spur trail to Appalachian Trail (AT) and hike north 5.9 miles.

Turn left to access Jenkins Gap Parking and complete the circuit.

Notes

Camping:

Intermediate level – Suggest camping near intersection of Mt. Marshall Trail and Jordan River Trail (on the right/west side), hike downhill on Jordan River for water. If staying out for a total of three nights, you may camp one night at Gravel Springs Hut.

Advanced level – There are several 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 below.

Options

Route: 13.4 miles for the basic loop

Add additional 3.2 miles round trip 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.