Backcountry Camping Trip Guide

Two Nights

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

Nicholson Hollow and Corbin Mountain

Standard - Circuit

Level: Advanced
Total Length: 12 miles

Trip Description: Simple circuit, wilderness area, cascades, park history, and swimming holes

Entry: **Exit:** **Map(s):** PATC #10 Central District

Day One

Campsite: Nicholson Hollow Trail - backcountry

4.5 miles (or anywhere between 2 and 5.5 miles)
Hike down Nicholson Hollow from 2 to 4.5 miles.
(Or you may continue another mile past Corbin Mountain and backtrack on day two.)
You will find camping options from shortly after you reach the river as this is a fairly broad valley.

Day Two

Campsite: Indian Run Trail - backcountry

4.5 miles (more or less, depending on chosen campsite)
Continue on Nicholson Hollow to Corbin Hollow Trail.
Hike up Corbin Mountain 3.8 miles.
Turn right onto Indian Run and hike until you find a nice place to camp.
Camp along Indian Run; if it is very dry, you may need to get your water from the Hughes River in Nicholson Hollow.

Day Three

2.7 miles (more or less, depending on chosen campsite)
Continue hiking on Indian Run (total distance 1.7 miles).
Turn left onto Nicholson Hollow and hike uphill to return to vehicle (1.7 miles).

Notes

The Hughes River which runs through Nicholson Hollow can run very high in the spring or after heavy rains (knee to waist high). The trail crosses the river several times, so be prepared. The plus side is the excellent swimming holes which exist even when it's dry.

While you shouldn't have much trouble finding a place to camp on Nicholson Hollow, Indian Run will be more of a challenge. Give yourself plenty of time to locate a safe (watch for dead hemlocks) and legal place to camp.