

Backcountry Camping Trip Guide

Two Nights

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



Nicholson and Corbin Mtn, 2 nights from the boundary

Standard - Basecamp

Level: Strenuous Beginner

Total Length: 12.5 to 11.5 miles

Trip Description: Wilderness area, cascades, park history, and swimming holes; park at Old Rag boundary

Entry: Weakley Hollow Boundary

Exit: Weakley Hollow Boundary

Map(s): PATC #10 Central District

Central District; East side; Route 600 - Nethers

Central District; East side; Route 600 - Nethers

Day One

Campsite: Nicholson Hollow Trail - backcountry

2 to 3 miles

Hike from parking area to Nicholson Hollow trailhead, up to 0.6 mile.

Hike up Nicholson Hollow Trail 1.4 miles and look for a pre-existing campsite in the next mile.

(Groups of up to 10 will find enough room to camp legally, by looking for sites off Nicholson Hollow Trail between the junctions with Corbin Mountain and Hot Mountain-Short Mountain Trails.)

Day Two

Campsite: Nicholson Hollow Trail - backcountry

8.3 miles (day hike)

Leave your tents, but take a daypack and your valuables. Be sure to properly store your food and scented items if you leave your camp unattended.

Continue hiking up Nicholson Hollow Trail another 2.8 miles past Corbin Mountain Trail.

Turn left onto Indian Run Trail and hike 1.7 miles.

Turn left onto Corbin Mountain Trail and hike 3.8 miles.

Return to Nicholson Hollow Trail and to your campsite.

Day Three

2 to 3 miles

Hike down Nicholson Hollow Trail 1.4 to 2 miles.

Continue to Old Rag Parking, up to 0.6 mile.

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 that exist even in drought.

While this is a popular, though not crowded, place on the weekends, during the week you can often have this wilderness area to yourself.