

Backcountry Camping Trip Guide

Two Nights

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



Paine Run, Doyles River, and Austin Mountain

Standard - Circuit

Level: Experienced

Total Length: 25.8 miles

Trip Description: Spectacular mountains, three waterfalls, and outstanding geology

Entry: Madison Run Boundary
South District; West side; Route # 663

Exit: Madison Run Boundary
South District; West side; Route # 663

Map(s): PATC #11 South District

Day One

Campsite: Paine Run - backcountry

8.5 to 10.5 miles

From the gate at the boundary, hike up Madison Run Road 0.1 mile.

Turn right onto Furnace Mountain Trail and hike 3.4 miles.

(At 1.6 miles, reach junction with trail to summit of Furnace Mountain. Add 1 mile roundtrip to see excellent views from summit.)

Turn right onto Trayfoot Mountain Trail, hiking 4 miles.

Turn left onto Paine Run Trail and find a place to camp within the next two miles.

Day Two

Campsite: Doyles River Trail - backcountry

6.5 to 8.5 miles

Continue up Paine Run Trail for a total of 3.4 miles.

Cross Skyline Drive and turn left onto the Appalachian Trail (AT).

Hike north on AT for 2.6 miles and turn right on Jones Run Trail.

At 1.7 miles, a short side trail provides a good view of falls.

At 2.5 miles, reach junction of Jones Run Trail and Doyles River Trail (trail becomes Doyles River Trail at this point). Find a place to camp downstream from the confluence of Jones Run and Doyles River.

Day Three

8.8 miles

Hike up Doyles River Trail for 2.2 miles.

Turn left onto the AT and hike south 1.6 miles.

Turn right onto Big Run Loop Trail, hiking 0.7 mile.

At a concrete post, leave Big Run Loop Trail and continue straight onto Rockytop Trail, 0.4 mile.

Turn left onto Austin Mountain Trail and descend 3.2 miles to Madison Run Road.

Turn right on Madison Run Fire Road and proceed 0.7 mile to the gate at SR 663.

Notes

To take this trip you'll need to get an early start on the first day.