

Backcountry Camping Trip Guide

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



Two Nights



Pocosin Hollow and Slaughter Ridge

Standard - Circuit

Level: Experienced

Total Length: 19.3 miles

Trip Description: Waterfalls (83' high), mission ruins, views, early spring wildflowers, early fall color

Entry: 63 MP - South River Picnic Area

Exit: 63 MP - South River Picnic Area

Map(s): PATC #10 Central District

Day One

Campsite: Pocosin Hollow Trail - backcountry

4.2 to 5.1 miles

Hike South River Falls, 1.2 miles (overlook to 83' falls at 1 mile).

Turn left toward South River Road, hiking 0.4 mile.

Turn right onto South River Road and hike less than one mile.

Turn left onto Pocosin Trail and hike 1.3 miles to the ruins of Pocosin Mission.

Turn right onto Pocosin Road and hike 0.2 mile.

Turn left onto Pocosin Hollow and look for a campsite, 0.1 mile to 1 mile.

(Either bring water or hike downstream for water.)

Day Two

Campsite: Slaughter Trail - backcountry

7 to 8 miles

Continue hiking down Pocosin Hollow Trail (total length 2.8 miles).

Follow the blue blazes down the gravel road (private property, so please stay on road), 0.7 mile.

Turn left onto State Route 667 and hike about 1.5 miles.

Cross stream to access Slaughter Trail and hike about 3 miles, then look for a place to camp.

Day Three

7.2 miles

Hike Slaughter Trail uphill, back to the AT, about 1 mile.

Turn left onto the AT and hike 6.2 miles to South River Picnic Area.

Notes

Wear blaze orange during hunting season, as you will pass through small areas of Rapidan Wildlife Management Area where hunting is allowed (see topographic map).

Options

This can also be hiked from Swift Run Gap when Skyline Drive is closed. Add 3.2 miles to the first and last days. Hike north on the AT to South River Picnic Area on Day One.