

Backcountry Camping Trip Guide

One Night

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



Rose River Loop

Standard - Circuit

Level: Beginner

Total Length: 4 to 4.4 miles

Trip Description: Simple beginner loop with beautiful waterfalls. May be crowded on weekends.

Entry: 49 MP - Fishers Gap

Exit: 49 MP - Fishers Gap

Map(s): PATC #10 Central District

Day One

Campsite: Rose River Loop - backcountry

1.6 to 1.8 miles

Cross Skyline Drive and hike down the gravel Rose River Road 100 feet.

Turn left onto Rose River Loop/Skyland Big Meadows Horse Trail, hiking 0.5 mile.

Turn right onto Rose River Loop Trail (leaving the horse trail) and hike 1 mile to 1.2 miles.

Camping: Pass the waterfalls and arrive at the lower concrete trail post. From here there are three camping options within the next 0.2 mile, all heading downstream. See notes below.

Day Two

2.1 to 2.3 miles

Continue on Rose River Loop Trail another 0.9 mile to 1.1 miles.

Turn right onto the gravel Rose River Road, then hike over the bridge and on uphill for 1.2 miles.

Cross Skyline Drive to return to your vehicle.

Notes

You may either park at Fishers Gap Overlook or in the parking area just north of the overlook.

This is a popular destination on weekends. You may want to plan your trip for a weekday in order to assure that you will find a place to camp.

Camping (three places near Rose River Loop Trail):

The key reference point is the lower concrete post mentioned below. The band on this post says "Dark Hollow Falls 1.2 miles."

One - Turn left at the lower post and hike downstream until you find a place to camp

Two - Continue hiking another 0.13 mile past the post to a small feeder stream. Cross this stream, then immediately turn left and hike downstream looking for a place to camp.

Three - Continue hiking 0.2 mile from the post (0.07 mile from the stream) to a footbridge across Hogcamp Branch. Bear left (you may be able to follow an old road trace) well off trail, looking for a place to camp.

Options

You may add 0.4 mile on your second day to see Dark Hollow Falls from the viewpoint (you'll see the base of the falls from the bridge on Rose River Road). From near the bridge, hike steeply uphill on Dark Hollow Falls Trail for 0.2 mile to the overlook. Return the same way to resume your circuit.