

Backcountry Camping Trip Guide

Two Nights

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



Swift Run, Pocosin Hollow and Slaughter Ridge

Standard - circuit

Level: Experienced or Advanced

Total Length: 25.7 miles

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

Entry: 65 MP - Swift Run (north)

Exit: 65 MP - Swift Run (north)

Map(s): PATC #10 Central District

Day One

Campsite: Pocosin Hollow Trail - backcountry

7.4 to 8.3 miles

Hike up the Swift Run Gap entrance station road to Skyline Drive, up to 0.2 mile.

Hike north on the AT (Appalachian Trail) for 3.0 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 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 blue blazes down gravel road (private, 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, hike about 3 miles, then look for a place to camp.

Three Nights

10.4 miles

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

Turn left onto the AT and hike 9.2 miles to Swift Run Gap.

Hike downhill toward the entrance station to your vehicle (up to 0.2 mile)

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).