

Backcountry Camping Trip Guide

One Night

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



Whiteoak Canyon and Nicholson Hollow

Standard - Circuit

Level: Experienced

Total Length: 16.1 miles

Trip Description: Multiple waterfalls, park history, a wilderness hollow

Entry: Berry Hollow Boundary

Exit: Berry Hollow Boundary

Map(s): PATC #10 Central District

Central District; East side; Route 600 - Syria

Central District; East side; Route 600 - Syria

Day One

Campsite: Nicholson Hollow Trail - backcountry

7.8 to 8.8 miles

Park on the boundary at Whiteoak Canyon Parking.

Hike uphill on Whiteoak Canyon Trail 3.0 miles.

Turn right on Skyland Big Meadows Horse Trail and hike 1.2 miles.

Turn right on Old Rag Fire Road hiking 0.8 mile.

Turn left onto Corbin Mountain Trail and hike 0.6 mile.

Turn left onto Indian Run Trail, descending 1.7 miles.

Turn right onto Nicholson Hollow Trail, hiking at least 0.5 mile.

Look for a place to camp in the next 1 to 2 miles.

Day Two

6.3 to 8.3 miles

Continue hiking down Nicholson Hollow Trail another 1.7 to 3.7 miles, exiting the park.

Turn right on SR 600 and hike about 0.3 mile.

Re-enter the Park on Weakly Hollow Fire Road, hiking 2.5 miles.

Weakly Hollow Road ends at the intersection with Old Rag Road and continues as Berry Hollow Road – bear left and then right for Berry Hollow.

Hike down Berry Hollow Road 0.8 mile to a gate, bear left another mile on paved road to return to your car.

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.

Whiteoak Canyon is a beautiful place, but currently receives extraordinarily high use on weekends. Not only does this make for unpleasantly crowded camping, it damages the natural resource as increasingly large areas are impacted. This trip takes you through the canyon in the morning before the crowds gather, then you will camp in beautiful Nicholson Hollow.