

Shenandoah National Park

Trail Ride Guide



Trip Name: Rapidan and Rose River Loops (1-30 Mile Circuit)

Trip Description: A variety of circuits (from 8 to 28 miles long) make be ridden in this area.

Trail Stability: Not a suitable route for wet/winter conditions.

PATC Map: PATC #10 (Central District)

Encounters: Route travels through areas where hunting is allowed. Wear blaze orange during hunting season. Route uses county roads outside of the park (No busy highways are included). This trail has heavy hiking and/or backpacking use at all times.

Footing: Some sections are rough, rocky, narrow, and/or in wilderness.

Skyline Drive Parking: Fishers Gap Overlook. Goose-neck trailer OK. Parking is generally available.

Boundary Parking: Graves Mill Boundary Parking. Stock trailer OK. Trailer parking may be limited.

Option 1 - Total Distance 8.3 Miles

From Fishers Gap Overlook, mile 49.5, exit from the north end of the overlook and cross Skyline Drive.

Turn right onto Rose River Fire Road and ride 2 miles.

Turn right onto Stony Mountain Trail, riding 1.1 mile.

Turn right onto Rapidan Fire Road and ride 3 miles.

Cross Skyline Drive and ride the Tanners Ridge Horse Trail (bear right at the junction) for less than 0.7 mile, at which point it becomes the Skyland-Big Meadows Horse (SBMH) Trail.

Ride on the SBMH Trail 1.4 miles to Fishers Gap Overlook.

Option 2 - Total Distance 27.9 Miles

From Graves Mill Parking on the boundary, ride Graves Mill Trail 2.2 miles.

Turn left onto Rapidan Fire Road and ride 8.8 miles.

Cross Skyline Drive and ride the Tanners Ridge Horse Trail (bear right at the junction) for less than 0.7 mile, at which point it becomes the Skyland-Big Meadows Horse (SBMH) Trail.

Ride on the SBMH Trail 1.6 miles, crossing Skyline Drive, then intersecting the Rose River Fire Road.

Turn right onto Rose River Fire Road for the next 5.2 miles.

Turn right onto Upper Dark Hollow Trail and ride 2.2 miles.

Turn left onto Rapidan Fire Road, riding 5 miles.

Turn right onto Graves Mill Trail to return to your vehicle in 2.2 miles.

Notes

There are many horse trail options, both circuits and roundtrip, in this area. For other ideas see "Rose River, Stony Man, and Upper Dark Hollow," "Fork Mountain and Rapidan River," "Rapidan Roundtrip," and "Rose River Roundtrip," or design your own route.