

Shenandoah National Park

Trail Ride Guide



Trip Name: South River and Pocosin Circuit (15-20 Mile Circuit)

Trip Description: Visit the third highest waterfall in the park and see the Pocosin Mission ruins.

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). Weekends bring heavy hiking and/or backpacking along this route.

Footings: Long stretches are rough, rocky, narrow, and/or in wilderness. You and your horse should be in excellent condition.

Skyline Drive Parking: South River Overlook and Picnic Entrance. Goose-neck trailer OK. Trailer parking may be limited.

Boundary Parking: N/A

Total Distance 15.1 Miles

Park either at the South River Overlook, mile 62.7, or at the entrance to the South River Picnic Area, mile 62.8. However, be sure your parked vehicle does not block traffic to either the Overlook or the Picnic Area.

Ride northbound on Skyline Drive 0.1 mile.

Turn right onto South River Road, riding 1.3 miles (bear right at the "Y").

Use the hitching rails to tie your horse, and hike about 1/4 mile on the blue-blazed South River Falls Trail to see the 83' waterfall.

Return to your horse and ride uphill, back to South River Road about 1/4 mile.

Turn right onto South River Road and ride 1 mile, leaving the park, then leaving the Rapidan Wildlife Management Area (RWMA).

Continue on state route 642 for 4.1 miles.

Turn left onto state route 637 and ride 3.3 to enter the park.

Upon entering the park, the road becomes Pocosin Fire Road; continue for 1.4 miles.

Turn left onto Pocosin Trail riding 1.3 miles before exiting the park again.

Turn right, back onto South River Road, entering first the RWMA, then entering the park.

You'll ride on South River Road for 2.4 miles to return to Skyline Drive and your vehicle.