



Is Skyline Drive Open?

The best way to track Skyline Drive status is to opt in to Shenandoah Alerts. Simply text SHENALERTS to 888777. Any time there are closures or re-openings you will receive a text. You will also receive other important safety-related alerts. Skyline Drive status can also be tracked on the Alerts & Conditions section of our website.

Icy roads and winter weather conditions may necessitate slower speeds. **The maximum speed limit along Skyline Drive is 35 mph.**

Winter Hiking

Winter is a great time to hike. The quiet and solitude are unmatched. The cold, clear days are perfect for an invigorating trip to a summit or to see a waterfall frozen in time. Be sure to dress in layers and take water, snacks, and a flashlight. Be prepared for the unexpected, and remember that cell phones don't work in most areas of the Park. The official NPS App is a great hiking tool, but be sure to download offline content before coming to Shenandoah.

It's a good idea to know what time the sun sets. Darkness can sneak up quickly. Be sure someone knows your itinerary and which area of the Park you plan to visit.

Pets in Shenandoah

Shenandoah National Park is one of the few parks that allow pets. This is made possible by regulations that ensure public and resource safety. Failure to follow the regulations could jeopardize Shenandoah's ability to continue to allow pets.

If you choose to bring your pet, please be sure to:

- Keep your pet on a physical leash no longer than six feet *at all times.*
- Bag your pet's waste and *take it with you* to a bear-proof trash can. Do not leave bagged waste along trails!
- Observe the no-pets designation on the following trails:
Fox Hollow Trail (mile 4.6)
Stony Man Trail (mile 41.7)
Limberlost Trail (mile 43)
Dark Hollow Falls Trail (mile 50.4)
Story of the Forest Trail (mile 51)
Bearfence Rock Scramble (mile 56.4)
Frazier Discovery Trail (mile 79.5)
Old Rag Ridge Trail, Saddle Trail, and Access Trail
Ridge Access Trail (Old Rag area)

Help Combat Illegal Hunting

Hunting is illegal in Shenandoah National Park. If you see someone hunting, spotlighting, or transporting wildlife in the Park, call 1-800-732-0911 or 540-999-2227. You do not have to reveal your name, but if you do it will be kept confidential.

Winter in Shenandoah

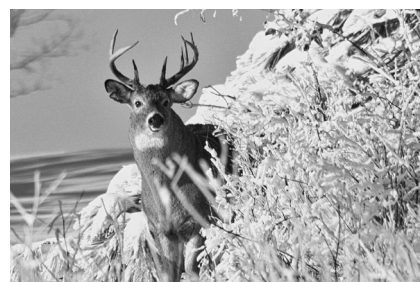
Winter is a great time to visit, especially if you are looking for solitude and clear views.

If there's snow or ice, Skyline Drive may be closed, but the Park is always open. You can still hike in to snowshoe, cross-country ski, and enjoy the Park. Be sure to listen and watch for plows. Picnic grounds are open; see the back for a list.



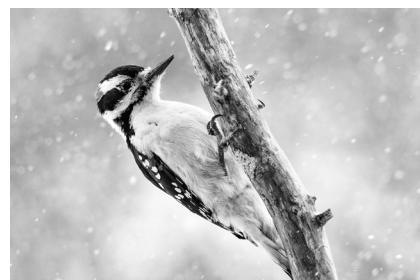
During winter, you'll have a better chance of seeing deer, squirrels, and turkeys as they forage for food. Foxes and bobcats are active during this time.

If winter is very mild, you might see signs of black bears who have emerged for a quick snack before returning to slumber.



Listen and look for Shenandoah's winter bird life. Chickadees, juncos, titmice, cardinals, nuthatches, and **woodpeckers** will be searching shrubs and ground plants for seeds and berries, or peeking under bark for hard-to-find insects. Snow in the mountains makes it fun and easy to see who's out and about. Look for tracks of mice, rabbits, and turkeys.

Winter sunsets are the prettiest and most dramatic. The crisp, clear air makes for sunsets that look like parfaits – sherbet oranges, raspberry pinks, blackberry purples, and blueberry indigos.

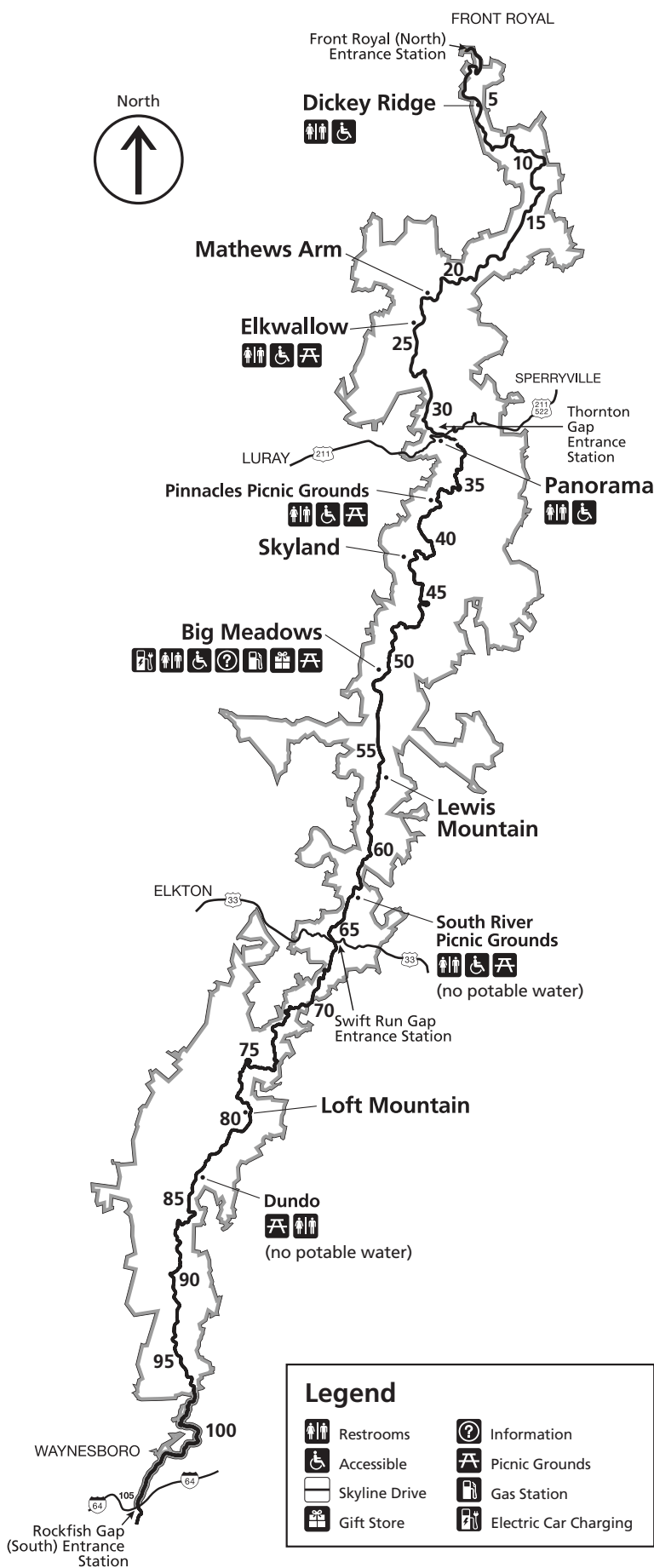


A winter visit is a magical way to experience Shenandoah!



Winter Visitor Services | December 2, 2024 - March 2025

Park Map



Important Safety Tips

- There are no commercial services during winter.
- Be sure to bring a flashlight, blankets, layers, food and water in case you become stranded.
- Be prepared and self-reliant! Weather and road conditions can change rapidly and are quite different from the surrounding lowlands.
- Visitor services and cell coverage are very limited.
- Although Skyline Drive is normally open 24 hours a day, severe weather may necessitate closure at any time.
- Expect winter driving conditions. Be alert for ice on the road, especially on shaded curves. Although the speed limit is 35 mph, conditions often require lower speeds.
- Park Emergency Number: (800) 732-0911**

Dickey Ridge (mile 4.6)

Dickey Ridge Visitor Center is closed until spring.
Restrooms: Open 24 hours, 7 days a week

Panorama (mile 31.5)

Restrooms, frost-proof hydrant

Big Meadows (mile 51)

Byrd Visitor Center (information, Park Store):

Open Thursday through Monday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.*

*Closed when Skyline Drive is closed for severe weather

*Closed Christmas Day

Restrooms: Open 24 hours, 7 days a week

Picnic Grounds (open year-round)

Vault toilets and frost-proof hydrants are available.

- Dickey Ridge Picnic Grounds (mile 4.6)
- Elkwallow Picnic Grounds (mile 24.1)
- Pinnacles Picnic Grounds (mile 36.6)
- Big Meadows Picnic Grounds (mile 51.2)
- Lewis Mountain Picnic Grounds (mile 57.5)
- South River Picnic Grounds (mile 62.8) | No water hydrant
- Dundo Picnic Grounds (mile 83.7) | No water hydrant

Emergency Phones

Mile	Location	Phone Type
0.6	Front Royal Entrance Station	Emergency Phone*
4.6	Dickey Ridge Restrooms	Local/Calling Card/Collect Only Phone
24.0	Elkwallow Wayside	Emergency Phone*
31.5	Thornton Gap Entrance Station	Emergency Phone*
51.2	Big Meadows Campground	Emergency Phone* at Registration Station
65.5	Swift Run Gap Entrance Station	Emergency Phone
79.5	Loft Mountain Wayside	Emergency Phone*
104.9	Rockfish Gap Entrance Station	Emergency Phone*
	Old Rag Parking Area	Emergency Phone*
	Whiteoak Boundary Trailhead	Emergency Phone*

*Emergency phones connect directly to Park emergency services.

CAUTION!

Although there is a Level 2 charging station at Byrd Visitor Center (mile 51), power is unreliable in winter which affects charging stations. Charging stations at Skyland are inaccessible in winter. Winter weather may limit normally scheduled fuel deliveries at Big Meadows Wayside (mile 51) and gas may not be available. Visitors should be prepared with enough fuel to sufficiently get through the Park.