

Shenandoah National Park

Backcountry Camping Trip Guide



Trip Name: Jones, Furnace, Lewis Peak, Big Run, and Brown Mtn.

Description: Spectacular mountains, three waterfalls, wilderness valley, and geology

Entry: 81 MP - Big Run OL/Doyles River Pkg

Exit: 81 MP - Big Run OL/Doyles River Pkg

Map(s): PATC #11 South District

Level: Advanced

Total Length: 40 to 30.4 miles

Day One

Campsite: Doyles River Trail - backcountry

2.3 miles

Hike down Doyles River Trail for 2.2 miles.

Find a place to camp downstream from the confluence of Doyles River and Jones Run.

Day Two

Campsite: Furnace Mtn Trail - backcountry

8 to 9 miles

Hike upstream on Jones Run Trail, hiking 2.5 miles.

Turn left onto the Appalachian Trail (AT), hiking 1.3 miles.

Turn right onto Blackrock Spur Trail and hike 0.1 mile.

Turn right onto Trayfoot Mountain Trail and hike 0.5 mile.

Turn right onto Furnace Mountain Trail, hiking 3.4 miles.

Camping Option One – There are places to camp off to your left (west) 1/3 mile before you reach Madison Run.

Or, turn right onto Madison Run Fire Road and hike one mile for camping option two:

Camping Option Two - Near the Austin Mountain Trail intersection cross Madison Run to the south bank to look for a place to camp.

Day Three

Campsite: Lewis Peak - backcountry

8 miles

Turn right onto Madison Run Fire Road (if you camped on Furnace) and hike 0.6 mile.

Turn left onto Austin Mountain Trail, hiking 3.2 miles.

Turn left onto Rockytop Trail and hike 1.8 miles.

Turn left onto Lewis Peak Trail and hike 2.4 miles.

Find a place to camp in this remote, seldom-visited portion of Shenandoah's designated wilderness area.

Day Four

Campsite: Big Run Portal/Loop Trails - backcountry

6 to 8 miles

Hike back on Lewis Peak Trail, 2.4 miles.

Turn left onto Rockytop Trail and hike 3.5 miles.

Turn right onto Big Run Portal Trail, hiking to stream before looking for a campsite.

Be sure to use a pre-existing campsite if you want to hike the next day as a day hike.

Follow social trails leading downstream near the Brown Mountain Trail intersection to look for sites.

Day Five

Campsite: Big Run Portal/Loop Trails - backcountry

Circuit day hike of 9 miles

Leave your camp set up with permit on tent. Be sure to properly store your food and scented items, taking valuables with you.

Hike upstream on Big Run Portal Trail to Rocky Mountain Run Trail.

Turn onto Rocky Mountain Run Trail and hike 2.7 miles.

Turn left onto Brown Mountain Trail, hiking 4.6 miles.

Return to your campsite near Big Run Portal Trail.

Day Six

4.2 to 6.2 miles

Hike upstream on Big Run Portal Trail (2 to 4 miles, depending on campsite).

Turn left onto Big Run Loop Trail, hiking 2.2 miles.

Cross Skyline Drive to return to your vehicle.

Notes

Jones Run and Doyles River have three excellent waterfalls, Big Run is a beautiful wilderness valley with many opportunities for camping, swimming, and fishing. Rockytop, Brown Mountain, Austin, and Furnace have some excellent views, and the Blackrock area on the AT is an interesting geologic area. Lewis Peak is a seldom-explored area and the trail may be difficult to follow in places, therefore this trip is only recommended for advanced backcountry campers skilled in navigation and finding pristine campsites.

The multiple stream crossings on Big Run Portal can be knee to waist high when the water is up. Beware in the spring and after heavy rains!

Options

You may shorten this to a four-night trip by skipping day five.
