

# Shenandoah National Park

## Backcountry Camping Trip Guide



**Trip Name:** Loft Mountain and Jones Run, 14 miles

**Description:** Mountaintop campground; excellent views, geology, and three waterfalls

**Entry:** 78 MP - Ivy Creek OL

**Exit:** 87 MP - Blackrock Gap

**Map(s):** PATC #11 South District

**Level:** Strenuous Beginner or Experienced

**Total Length:** 14.4 miles

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### Day One

Campsite: South District developed areas - campground or cabin

5 miles

Hike south on Appalachian Trail (AT) about 5 miles to Loft Mountain Campground.

See note below on camping at Loft Mountain.

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### Day Two

Campsite: Doyles River Trail - backcountry

4.4 miles

Hike south on AT about 2 miles (may be more or less depending on campsite).

Turn left onto Doyles River Trail, hiking 2.2 miles.

Camp downstream from the confluence of Doyles River and Jones Run.

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### Day Three

5 miles

Hike up Jones Run Trail 2.5 miles.

Turn left onto AT and hike south 2.5 miles to Blackrock Gap.

(Be sure to enjoy the views and geology at Blackrock.)

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### Notes

Loft Mountain Campground generally opens sometime in May and closes the end of October. Since the sites are first-come, first-served, the campground often fills to capacity on weekends. Plan to either check into your site when spotting a vehicle on the first day, or to arrive by 4:00 p.m. on a Friday (earlier on a holiday weekend).

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### Options

You can easily shorten or extend the first and last days by changing where you access the AT.

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