

Shenandoah National Park

Backcountry Camping Trip Guide



Trip Name: Loft Mountain and Jones Run, 9 miles

Description: Three waterfalls, excellent views, first night in mountaintop campground

Entry: 79 MP - Loft Mt. Wayside

Exit: 84 MP - Jones Run Parking

Map(s): PATC #11 South District

Level: Beginner

Total Length: 9 miles

Day One

Campsite: South District developed areas - campground or cabin

2.7 miles

Cross Skyline Drive to access Frazier Discovery Trail.

Hike up Frazier Discovery Trail to the left (north) 0.7 miles.

Turn right onto the Appalachian Trail (AT), hiking south about 2 miles to Loft Mountain Campground.

See note below on camping at Loft Mountain.

Day Two

Campsite: Jones Run Trail - backcountry

3.8 to 5 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.

Day Three

2.5 miles

Hike up Jones Run Trail 2.5 miles to Jones Run Parking.

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).

Camp on the southwest side of the campground, near an AT connecting trail, in order to shorten your hike on the following day.

Options

You can easily make the first and last days longer by starting elsewhere on the AT.
