

Shenandoah National Park

Backcountry Camping Trip Guide



Trip Name: Mount Marshall and Bluff, 2 Nights

Description: Flexible hike through a wilderness forest with many side trip options

Entry: 12 MP - Jenkins Gap

Exit: 12 MP - Jenkins Gap

Map(s): PATC # 9 North District

Level: Experienced or Advanced

Total Length: 13 to 30 miles

Day One

Campsite: Mount Marshall Trail - backcountry

4 miles

Park at Jenkins Gap.

Hike south on Skyline Drive a short distance to Mt. Marshall trailhead.

Turn left onto Mt. Marshall Trail and hike 3.9 miles.

Dry-camp near the intersection of Mt. Marshall Trail and Jordan River Trail (on the right/west side of the trail), hiking downhill on Jordan River Trail for water.

Day Two

3 to 5 miles

Hike back uphill on Mt. Marshall Trail, 0.4 mile.

Turn left onto Bluff Trail and hike 2.3 miles.

Stay on main trail to Gravel Springs Hut (get water from the spring).

Hike up spur trail to Appalachian Trail (AT) and hike north 0.2 mile.

Cross Skyline Drive (on AT). When AT leaves Browntown Trail, stay left on Browntown.

Dry-camp off of Browntown Trail; the best camping is shortly after the AT junction.

Or, hike an additional 2 miles down Browntown Trail for real solitude while camping.

Day Three

6 to 8 miles

Hike back up Browntown Trail to AT (0.2 mile to 2 miles).

Turn left onto AT and hike north 5.7 miles.

Turn left to access Jenkins Gap Parking and complete the circuit.

Notes

Camping:

Intermediate level – If staying out for a total of three nights, you may camp one night at Gravel Springs Hut.

Expert level – There are several options for camping on Mt. Marshall Trail and the AT, also.

Browntown Trail– Both at the top and bottom, and on portions of Big Devils Stairs Trail. With some exploration, you could find a place to camp on any of the side trails listed above.

Options

Route options: 13 miles as described above; see map for additions.

Add additional 3.2 miles round trip to include Big Devils Stairs Trail;
and/or add additional 5.6 miles round trip to include Harris Hollow Trail;
and/or add additional 6.8 miles round trip to include Browntown Trail;
and/or add additional 2 miles round trip to include Jenkins Gap Trail;
and/or add additional 2.6 miles round trip to include Jordan River Trail.