

Shenandoah National Park

Backcountry Camping Trip Guide



Trip Name: Overall Run Falls and Piney Branch

Description: Two beautiful wilderness streams, highest waterfall in the park (93")

Entry: 21 MP - Hogback or MP 21.1 Parking

Exit: 21 MP - Hogback or MP 21.1 Parking

Map(s): PATC # 9 North District

Level: Experienced

Total Length: 21.6 to 23 miles

Day One

Campsite: Overall Run Trail - backcountry

5.9 to 6.2 miles

Drive to the parking area on the south end of Hogback Overlook.

Find Appalachian Trail (AT) on south side of parking area and hike south 0.4 mile.

Turn right onto Tuscarora/Overall Run Trail and hike for 4.6 miles, enjoying two waterfalls.

When Tuscarora and Overall Trails split, stay left on Overall Run Trail, hiking at least 0.3 mile before looking for a place to camp (it is 0.6 mile from the split to the B-OR connector).

Be sure to visit the side trail to the cascades (shortly after the Tuscarora-Overall split).

Camp along Overall Run Trail toward the bottom end of the trail, or for camping capable of accommodating groups of up to 10, when Beecher-Overall Run Connecting Trail comes in on your left, continue down the old road trace that is straight ahead and look for a place to camp well below the connector trail intersection.

Day Two

Campsite: Piney Branch Trail (below Hull Schl) - backcountry

9 to 11.5 miles

Hike up the Beecher-Overall Connecting Trail, 0.7 mile.

Turn left onto Beecher Ridge Trail and hike 2.3 miles.

Turn right onto Mathews Arm Trail and hike 0.8 mile.

Turn left onto Traces Trail and hike 0.6 mile.

Turn left onto connector then right onto Tuscarora/Overall Run Trail, 0.8 mile.

Turn right onto the AT and hike 0.8 mile.

Shortly after crossing Skyline Drive on the AT, turn left onto Piney Branch Trail.

Hike down Piney Branch Trail 3-5 miles and begin looking for a campsite. Groups will find places to camp after the Hull School Trail intersection (4.4 to 5.1 miles down Piney Branch Trail).

Day Three

5 to 7 miles

There are several ways back to your vehicle; this is just one option:

Hike west on Hull School Trail, 0.6 mile to Fork Mountain Trail.

Turn right onto Fork Mountain Trail and hike 1.2 miles.

Stay straight ahead onto Piney Ridge Trail (don't turn right), hiking 2 miles.

Turn left onto the gravel road, hiking a short distance to the AT.

Turn right onto the AT and hike 1.7 miles to your vehicle.

Notes

There are several high water crossings on the Piney Branch Trail which could be challenging, or even dangerous, if the water is up.

