

Shenandoah National Park

Backcountry Camping Trip Guide



Trip Name: South River and Pocosin

Description: Waterfalls (83' high), mission ruins, early spring wildflowers, early fall color

Entry: 63 MP - South River Picnic Area

Exit: 63 MP - South River Picnic Area

Map(s): PATC #10 Central District

Level: Experienced

Total Length: 8.4 miles

Day One

Campsite: Pocosin Horse Trail - backcountry

2.8 to 3.8 miles

Hike South River Falls Trail, 1.2 miles (viewpoint for 83' waterfall at 1.0 mile).

Turn left toward South River Fire Road, hiking 0.4 mile.

Turn right onto South River Fire Road and hike less than one mile.

Turn left onto Pocosin Trail and look for a dry campsite within the next mile (bring water).

Day Two

4.8 to 5.8 miles

Finish hiking Pocosin Trail (total 1.3 miles).

Turn left onto Pocosin Road and hike uphill 1.1 miles.

Turn left onto the Appalachian Trail (AT) and hike south 3.4 miles.

Turn right into South River Picnic Area.

Notes

Wear blaze orange during hunting season, as you will pass through small areas of Rapidan Wildlife Management Area where hunting is allowed (see topographic map).

Options

This can also be hiked from Swift Run Gap when Skyline Drive is closed. Add 3.2 miles to each day.

Hike north on the AT to South River Picnic Area on Day One. Approximate distances:

Day One – 6 to 7 miles

Day Two – 8 to 9 miles

Emergency Phone: 1-800-732-0911

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