

Shenandoah National Park

Trail Ride Guide



Trip Name: South River and Pocosin Roundtrip (1-9 Mile Roundtrip)

Trip Description: Visit the third highest waterfall in the park and see the Pocosin Mission ruins.

Trail Stability: Not a suitable route for wet/winter conditions.

PATC Map: PATC #10 (Central District)

Encounters: Route travels through areas where hunting is allowed. Wear blaze orange during hunting season. Vehicle traffic is possible, but is limited to park employees. Weekends bring heavy hiking and/or backpacking along this route.

Footing: Some sections are rough, rocky, narrow, and/or in wilderness.

Skyline Drive Parking: South River Overlook and Picnic Entrance. Goose-neck trailer OK. Trailer parking may be limited.

Boundary Parking: N/A

7.5-Mile roundtrip ride, plus optional 0.5 mile roundtrip hike to see falls

Park either at the South River Overlook, mile 62.7, or at the entrance to the South River Picnic Area, mile 62.8. However, be sure your parked vehicle does not block traffic to either the Overlook or the Picnic Area.

Ride northbound on Skyline Drive 0.1 mile.

Turn right onto South River Road, riding 1.1 miles.

Bear right at the Y, continuing downhill on the gravel road another 1/4 mile.

Use the hitching rails to tie your horse, and hike about 1/4 mile on the blue-blazed South River Falls Trail to see the 83' waterfall.

Return to your horse and ride uphill, back to South River Road about 1/4 mile.

Turn right onto South River Road and ride about one mile, leaving the park.

Turn left onto Pocosin Trail, entering the park again and riding 1.3 miles.

Look at the remains of the Pocosin Mission, then retrace your steps to return to your vehicle.