

Shenandoah National Park

Backcountry Camping Trip Guide



Trip Name: Jones Run, Furnace Mountain, and Big Run

Description: Spectacular mountains, three waterfalls, wilderness valley, and geology

Entry: 81 MP - Big Run OL/Doyles River Pkg

Exit: 81 MP - Big Run OL/Doyles River Pkg

Map(s): PATC #11 South District

Level: Experienced

Total Length: 19 to 27 miles

Day One

Campsite: Doyles River Trail - backcountry

2.3 miles

Hike down Doyles River Trail for 2.2 miles.

Find a place to camp downstream from the confluence of Doyles River and Jones Run.

Day Two

Campsite: Furnace Mtn Trail - backcountry

8 to 9 miles

Hike upstream on Jones Run Trail, hiking 2.5 miles.

Turn left onto the Appalachian Trail (AT), hiking 1.3 miles.

Turn right onto Blackrock Spur Trail and hike 0.1 mile.

Turn right onto Trayfoot Mt. Trail and hike 0.5 mile.

Turn right onto Furnace Mountain Trail, hiking up to 3.4 miles.

Camping option one – There are good places to camp off to your left (west) 1/3 mile before the bottom of Furnace before you cross the stream.

Or turn right onto Madison Run Fire Road and hike 1 mile for camping option two:

Camping option two - After 1 mile (around the Austin Mt Trail intersection) turn right off of the road and cross the stream. There are some level areas on the south/west bank.

Day Three

Campsite: Big Run Portal/Loop Trails - backcountry

6 to 10 miles

Turn right onto Madison Run Fire Road (if you camped on Furnace) and hike 0.6 mile.

Turn left onto Austin Mountain Trail, hiking 3.2 miles.

Turn right onto Rockytop Trail and hike 0.4 mile.

Turn left onto Big Run Loop Trail, hiking 1.3 miles.

Turn left onto Big Run Portal Trail and find a place to camp (see notes below), 0.5 mile to 4 miles.

Day Four

2.7 to 6.2 miles

Hike upstream on Big Run Portal Trail (0.5 mile to 4 miles, depending on campsite).

Turn left onto Big Run Loop Trail, hiking 2.2 miles.

Cross Skyline Drive to return to your vehicle.

Notes

Excellent camping and fishing is available throughout the Big Run drainage. This wilderness valley is well worth exploring.

The multiple stream crossings on Big Run Portal can be knee to waist high when the water is up. Beware in the spring and after heavy rains!

Emergency Phone: 1-800-732-0911

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