

Shenandoah National Park

Backcountry Camping Trip Guide



Trip Name: Overall Run, Piney Branch, and Jeremys Run

Description: Three beautiful wilderness streams, highest waterfall in 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: 34.2 to 36 miles

Day One

Campsite: Overall Run Trail - backcountry

5.9 to 6.2 miles

Drive to the parking area at 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 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 in the last 0.3 mile 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 Run 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 trail, 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 to 5 miles and begin looking for a campsite. Groups will find places to camp below the Hull School Trail intersection (4.4 to 5.1 miles down Piney Branch).

Day Three

Campsite: Jeremys Run Trail - backcountry

9.3 to 12 miles

Hike west on Hull School Trail 3.5 miles, then cross Skyline Drive.

Hike up the gated grass road/Neighbor Mountain Trail to Byrds Nest Shelter (day use only), 0.4 mile.

Facing the open side of the shelter, walk past the righthand corner to continue.

Continue hiking on Neighbor Mountain Trail (no longer a road) another 5.2 miles.

Turn right onto Jeremys Run Trail and begin looking for a campsite after 0.5 mile. See note below.

Day Four

About 8.3 miles, depending on campsite

Hike up Jeremys Run Trail 5.4 miles from the junction with Neighbor Mountain Trail..

Turn left onto the AT, hiking north 3.1 miles to return to your vehicle.

Notes

There are many legal, pre-existing campsites along Jeremys Run Trail (and a few persistent illegal campsites, so take care). Hike upstream on Jeremys Run Trail (there are very few places to camp downstream). When you are about 0.5 mile above the Neighbor and Knob junctions you will be in a wide part of the valley with campsites for at least the next half-mile. This is the best area to camp, and the only place groups are likely to find enough room. Gradually the valley will narrow and campsites will become sparse. There are a couple of small places to camp as you approach the Knob Mountain Cutoff Trail. Then it becomes very steep, ending your camping possibilities. Reminder: Campfires are not allowed, even if you see a fire ring for someone else's illegal fire!

There are numerous high water crossings on Piney Branch and Jeremys Run Trails which may be challenging, or even dangerous, if the water is up.