

Shenandoah National Park

Backcountry Camping Trip Guide



Trip Name: Thompson Hollow and Beecher Ridge

Description: Highest waterfalls in park (93'), cascades, swimming hole, and wilderness ridge

Entry: Thompson Hollow Boundary (North District; West side; Thompson Hollow Road)

Exit: Thompson Hollow Boundary (North District; West side; Thompson Hollow Road)

Map(s): PATC # 9 North District

Level: Experienced

Total Length: 9.8 to 13.8 miles

Day One

Campsite: Beecher Ridge Trail - backcountry

5.3 to 6.3 miles

Hike down the road, a private driveway, from the parking area 0.3 mile to park boundary. Follow the blue blazes.

Bear right at SNP trail post and onto Thompson Hollow Trail, hiking 0.6 mile (pass west-bound Tuscarora Trail post at 0.4 mile).

Turn left, (Tuscarora Trail joins Overall Run Trail) hiking 1.8 miles where Overall Run Falls drop 93 feet. Continue on Tuscarora/Overall Run Trail another 1.1 miles.

Turn right onto Mathews Arm Trail for 0.5 mile; pick up water at stream crossing.

Turn right onto Beecher Ridge Trail. Look for a place to dry-camp after hiking 1 to 2 miles.

Day Two

2.5 to 3.5 miles (or up to 7.5 miles total with side trip)

Continue on Beecher Ridge Trail to the Beecher/Overall Connector Trail, 0.3 mile to 1.3 miles.

Turn right, hiking down the Beecher/Overall Connector Trail, 0.7 mile.

Turn right onto Overall Run Trail and hike 0.6 mile.

Be sure to take the side trail to the falls and swimming hole.

Turn left onto Tuscarora, hiking 0.2 mile. **

Stay straight (don't turn left), now on Thompson Hollow for 0.4 mile.

Exit park, turning left and hiking 0.3 mile to return to vehicle.

Notes

Note: Even in high water, your only major stream crossing should be near the end of your circuit when you cross Overall Run. If you get wet here, it is a short hike back to your vehicle.

Options

**To extend your hike on day two, rather than staying straight on Thompson Hollow Trail, turn left, continuing to follow Tuscarora Trail. This is a seldom-traveled, but nice, rolling section of trail through open woods sprinkled with boulders. After about 2 miles and before you exit the park, turn around and retrace your steps. Turn left onto Thompson Hollow, then left again onto the gravel road to return to your vehicle.
