



Chimney Hollow/Elliott Knob - Buffalo Gap, Virginia

Length	Difficulty	Streams	Views	Solitude	Camping
15.4 mls	5	5	5	4	2
Hiking Time: 8.0 hours plus a half hour for lunch Elev. Gain: 3,670 ft Parking: VA42: 38.16125, -79.26927 US250: 38.27490, -79.29710 VA688: 38.21332, -79.29599					

The Chimney Hollow/Elliott Knob shuttle hike is the big brother of the Elliott Knob out and back route. At 15.4 miles and over 3,600 feet in altitude gain, this day hike is a serious workout. With great vistas, as well as nice stream walks, the hard workout is well worth the effort.

However, if that's a little more than your willing to do, you can also start at VA688 and make this a 9.4ml 2,700ft shuttle hike.

- ▶ **Mile 0.0** – From the parking area on U.S. 250 walk 50 yards to the trailhead of the yellow blazed Chimney Hollow Trail, then cross a small foot bridge built a local boy scout troop. Continue along the Chimney Hollow stream as it gradually begins to climb more steeply up the hollow then arrives at the first good viewpoint of Shenandoah Mountain. This vista spot is located just below Coalpit Knob.
- ▶ **Mile 1.7** - Continue along the Chimney Hollow Trail with the Crawford Mountain ridge visible directly ahead. At 3.2 miles the trail makes a share turn back to the left and climbs the remaining 0.2 miles to the Crawford Mountain Trail intersection and ridgeline.
- ▶ **Mile 3.3** - Turn right south along the yellow blazed Crawford Mountain Trail as the first couple of miles are a gradual decline, then the trail descends much more steeply for the next 1.6 miles down to Dry Branch Gap.
- ▶ **Mile 5.5** - Pass a closed gate at Dry Branch Gap, and cross VA688 onto the yellow blazed Elliott Knob Trail. Pass another gate as the trail starts up towards Lead-off Ridge on Great North Mountain. In 1.8 miles pass a side trail that goes down to Buffalo Spring. The spring is no longer flowing reliably. From the Buffalo Spring side trail it's a further 0.8 miles on the Elliott Knob Trail to the ridgeline.
- ▶ **Mile 8.1** - Continue to follow the Elliott Knob Trail for 1.6 miles where the trail ends at the Elliott Knob fire road.
- ▶ **Mile 9.7** - Turn right uphill on the fire road for 0.2 miles passing through a pine stand. From here the Elliott Knob Lookout Trail heads around the west side of the mountain then in 0.2 miles reach the Elliott Knob summit and fire tower. Enjoy the beautiful 270° panorama!
- ▶ **Mile 10.1** - From the summit retrace your steps back down the fire road and pass the Elliott Knob Trail you ascended earlier. Continue down the fire road another 2.0 miles at which point the yellow blazed Falls Hollow Trail enters from the left.
- ▶ **Mile 12.4** - Turn left onto the Falls Hollow Trail and follow it for 0.8 miles to the creek where the trail makes a sharp right downhill.
- ▶ **Mile 13.2** - Continue downstream on the Falls Hollow Trail passing several small waterfalls. The trail then becomes wider joining an old logging road. Continue along the logging road for another 1.0 miles where the Falls Hollow Trail ends at the parking area on VA42
- ▶ **Mile 15.4** Arrive at the VA42 and parking area