



Mudhole Gap - Front Royal, Virginia

Length	Difficulty	Streams	Views	Solitude	Camping
12.7 mls	★	★	★	★	★
Hiking Time:	6.5 hours with a half hour for lunch				
Elev. Gain:	2,140 ft				
Directions:	Left into Elizabeth Furnace Recreation Area (past group camping sign) Parking is on your left just before the bridge				

At 12.7 miles the Mudhole Gap loop isn't as difficult as a lot of shorter hikes. After you complete the first 3.8 miles to the ridge line near Meneka Peak the remaining 3/4 of the hike is either downhill or mostly flat, with the exception of a gradual ascent on the back loop. Little Passage Creek that runs through Mudhole gap is beautiful in the spring when the water is running with snow melt. One thing to keep in mind is the area is very popular with mountain bikers, so make sure to keep an ear out for them as they come up from behind.

Start by crossing the road taking the blue blazed Tuscarora Trail uphill for .2 miles to the first intersection. Turn left .9 miles continuing on the blue blazed trail as it winds around small ridges and crosses two small streams passing the white blazed connector trail that comes in from your left.

Continue uphill on the blue blazed trail as it traverses the mountain and passes the pink blazed Sidewinder Trail in another 1.2 miles on the left. Continue straight on the blue blazed trail as it enters the Bear Wallow area and and traverses the mountain until it reaches the ridge line and the junction of the Meneka Peak Trail in another 1.5 miles from the white blazed trail.

Continue straight downhill on the blue blazed trail as it descends for another .9 miles where it crosses Little Passage Creek and intersects an access road that leads up to the Transmitting tower on Signal Knob.

Turn left following the orange blazed forestry service road that is part of the Massanutten Trail and in .5 miles the orange blazed trail will turn right, stay straight, a little further you will pass the reservoir. 2.2 miles further on the access road you will come to a gate with a small parking area. Continue straight 100 yards passing a small road and two cabins on your right.

Turn left off the access road onto the purple blazed Mudhole Gap Trail. This will immediately cross Little Passage Creek as it heads down through the gap. Cross Little Passage Creek three more times before the trail turns left uphill in 1.0 miles.

Stay on the purple blazed Mudhole Gap Trail as it widens into an old access road and traverses and descends the mountain for another 3.1 miles passing the pink connector trail then white blazed connector trail will come in from your left.

Turn left uphill on the white blazed trail for .1 miles to meet the orange/blue blazed trail you ascends earlier. Turn right traversing the mountain and re-crossing the two small streams before meeting the Tuscarora intersection in .9 miles. Turn right descending the remaining .2 miles back to the parking lot.