

Springs

Van Buren
Spring Furnace
Ruins

Tuscarora
Trail

Tail
Trail

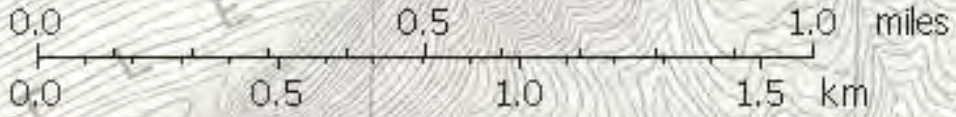
T E N N E S S E E

Tuscarora
Trail

Cedar
Trail

Tuscarora
Trail

Sheffer Gap



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Kepler Overlook - Woodstock, Virginia

Length	Difficulty	Streams	Views	Solitude	Camping
6.6 mls	★	★	★	★	★
Hiking Time:	3.5 hours plus a half hour for lunch				
Elev. Gain:	1,185				
Parking:	Park at the closed gate at the end of on Van Buren Rd. If the gate is open, proceed another 200 yards and park on the left at the permanently closed gate) 38.97137, -78.56316				

This secluded hiking area near Van Buren Furnace has several nice campsites, a vista west from Tea Mountain, the panoramic Kepler Overlook on Little North Mountain, and picturesque Cedar Creek. It's also the perfect car camping spot, with several large camp sites on the banks of Cedar Creek. If car camping, also consider following the Tuscarora Trail up Little Sluice Mountain and enjoy the vistas at White Rocks.

In the late Fall, Winter, and early Spring the lower gate on Van Buren Road will be closed. At these times park on the right next to a large campsite. Note: Backcountry camping in the National Forest is on a first-come first-serve basis. You can't reserve campsites, but there is no cost to camp. If it's open, feel free to camp there!

- ▶ **Mile 0.0** - From the lower closed gate follow the yellow blazed forestry road for 0.2 miles to the second parking area and permanently closed gate. That parking area, and second large car-camp site, is on a left turn out.
- ▶ **Mile 0.2** - Continue straight passing the closed gate and continuing on the yellow blazed forestry road. In 0.3 miles reach the intersection of the blue blazed Tuscarora Trail.
- ▶ **Mile 0.5** - Turn left down towards Cedar Creek following the Tuscarora Trail as it passes another closed gate and then reaches the crossing of Cedar Creek.
- ▶ **Mile 0.7** - Cross Cedar Creek and pass a large camping area. Continue to follow the blue blazed Tuscarora Trail for 0.1 miles where the blue blazed trail turns left off the path it's been following and starts climbing Tea Mountain. Watch for the double blazed tree that marks this turn off.
- ▶ **Mile 0.8** - After starting the climb up Tea Mountain the Tuscarora Trail becomes more narrow and moss covered for 0.3 miles, then widens back into an old forestry road. The trail passes a hollow on the right, then straightens and makes a hairpin turn left and leaves the forestry road. Again make sure to look for a double blazed tree that marks this turn.
- ▶ **Mile 2.1** - Turn left off the forestry road as the Tuscarora Trail continues to climb Tea Mountain making several switchbacks before reaching an unmarked side trail at another switchback. Follow the side trail 100 yards around the back of a rock outcrop for a panoramic view west towards Little Sluice Mountain. Return to the Tuscarora Trail to continue the hike.
- ▶ **Mile 2.7** - Continue up the Tuscarora Trail making one more switchback and reach the saddle between Tea Mountain and Little North Mountain. The trail will then make the short climb to the Little North Mountain ridge.
- ▶ **Mile 3.2** - Follow the Tuscarora Trail along the ridge for 0.1 miles to the panoramic Kepler Overlook, and a great ridgeline camping site.
- ▶ **Mile 3.3** - From the overlook and campsite retrace your route back to the parking area
- ▶ **Mile 6.6** - Arrive back at the parking area.