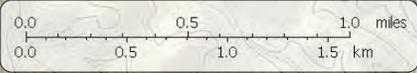


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NATIONAL FOREST

## Shenandoah Mountain - West Augusta, Virginia

Length	Difficulty	Streams	Views	Solitude	Camping
18.2 mls					
<b>Hiking Time:</b> <b>Elev. Gain:</b> 2 Days - Day One - 7 hours, Day Two - 3.5 hours <b>Parking:</b> 2,811 ft with multiple ascents Right into Mountain House Picnic Area cross concrete spillway, <u>Park on right</u> 100 yards up service road.					

Shenandoah Mountain, sounds like it should be in Shenandoah National Park (SNP). It is in fact, the sister hike to Ramsey's Draft. It shares the same Draft route but it will take the Shenandoah Mountain Trail to the west as the return route. Friends of Shenandoah Mtn is proposing Shenandoah Mtn as a National Scenic Area with four new Wilderness Areas. The trails are not blazed except for the Road Hollow Trail at the end which is yellow blazed.

Much of the area we hiked has never been timbered, so many of the trees were huge! You will ford Ramsey's Draft 20+ times and also go through stands of Hemlocks, which have been decimated in SNP. What a great hike but do it as 2 day backpack to really enjoy it.

Since there are so many crossings of Ramsey's Draft we will not describe them all, but when you get to a crossing scan the other side for the trail and sometimes there will be a well placed rock cairn marking it. Be aware, the Draft can be deep and flowing after heavy rains, so be careful when crossing and do not cross if it is too dangerous. You can always hike it another day. Be prepared to use river shoes or crocs on many of the crossings, others you may be able to "rock hop" or use a well placed downed tree. Switching out shoes will slow you down, you won't set any records on Day 1

### DAY 1 – 9.5 Miles

- ▶ **Mile 0.0** – The hike begins at the end of the parking lot just beyond the Information Kiosk. Very quickly you will by-pass the Bridge Hollow Trail on the right and then the Road Hollow Trail on your left, which will be part of your return route. Stay straight and on the left side of the Draft for 0.7 miles, this is the Ramsey's Draft Trail.
- ▶ **Mile 0.7** – The first of many crossings and the only one mentioned, keep your eyes peeled for it on the right as we originally missed it.
- ▶ **Mile 2.8** – Jerry's Run, cross it and then quickly pass Jerry's Run Trail on the left, stay straight on the Ramsey's Draft Trail, more crossings.
- ▶ **Mile 5.2** – US Geological Survey Marker on the left, says 2914', easy to miss. The elevation gain has been gradual to this point. The climb from this point becomes steeper with quite a few blowdowns prior to the intersection at Hiner Spring. As you approach the intersection, the trail is faint at best, keep heading up with the creek mostly on your left and you will be fine.
- ▶ **Mile 7.3** – Intersection with Bald Ridge Trail, trail sign was on the ground, continue up the Ramsey's Draft Trail and over the next 0.1 to 0.2 miles there will plenty of great campsites and places to fill up with water. This would be a good place to call it a day and camp for the night. You could then do a side trip to Hard Scrabble Knob for one of the few good views on this hike. We pressed on for 2 more miles as it was to rain the next morning.
- ▶ **Mile 7.7** – Intersection with Hardscrabble Knob Trail. Bear left and reach Hardscrabble Knob in 0.5 miles.
- ▶ **Mile 8.2** – Hardscrabble Knob, abandoned shack, and downed fire tower. You could camp here but no known water source, so fill up at Hiner Spring area prior to making that decision. Fairly decent view from top of Knob: Shenandoah Mtn to the Southwest, Big Bald Knob to the Southeast, Gordons Peak to the South and The Pinnacle to the South.
- ▶ **Mile 8.7** – Return to intersection and bear left onto Ramsey's Draft Trail.
- ▶ **Mile 9.5** – Reach Shenandoah Mtn Trail and bear left. Just off to your left is a great campsite with fire pit. Site is easily big enough for 10-12 tents with a Spring. This is where we camped for the night.  
 Note: The Spring is located across the trail from the campsite, look for tree with "SHENANDOAH MTN" sign, bear right 90 degrees, go down about 15-20 yards, quite steep. We cleaned out the leaves from an 8" deep pool of water and 20 minutes later the water was very clear and cold. Spring coordinates: **N38 22.868 W79 19.600**.

### DAY 2 – 8.7 Miles

We had a quick breakfast and packed up in light rain. The rain picked up as we hiked out, so we were highly motivated and made good time, 3.5 hours. If it is nice, take your time and enjoy the woods. There are some views through the trees but over all a nice walk on the ridge through some small stands of Hemlocks.

- ▶ **Mile 9.5** – Bear left onto the Shenandoah Mtn Trail after breaking camp
- ▶ **Mile 10.2** – Sinclair Hollow Trail on right, stay straight.
- ▶ **Mile 14.5** – Jerry's Run Trail on left, stay straight.
- ▶ **Mile 15.6** – Bear left onto Road Hollow Trail. You will really start to lose some elevation now.
- ▶ **Mile 18.1** – Reach Ramsey's Draft Trail, bear right towards Parking Lot.
- ▶ **Mile 18.2** – Parking Lot