



Keys Gap/David Lesser Shelter - Keys Gap, VA

Length	Difficulty	Streams	Views	Solitude	Camping
7.7 mls	★	N/A	★	★	★
Hiking Time: 3.5 hours plus 30 minutes for lunch Elev. Gain: 995 ft Parking: Park at the Keys Gap/Appalachian Trailparking area. 39.26180, -77.76241					

[Click Here For Detailed Location](#)



Keys Gap to the David Lesser shelter is one of the lesser utilized sections of the Appalachian Trail as it passes through Loudoun County Virginia. With the better know Raven Rocks to the south, and Loudoun Heights to the north, the Keys Gap/David Lesser Shelter hike is a nice alternative to the crowds. The David Lesser Shelter is a popular overnight campsite, with an adjacent tent camping area and picnic gazebo.

- ▶ **Mile 0.0** – From the parking area at Keys Gap join the Appalachian Trail (AT) at the far end of the parking area and information kiosk. Head south, immediately crossing VA-9. The first 0.5 miles of the AT can be muddy after rains. Follow the AT as it begins to ascend Blue Ridge.
- ▶ **Mile 1.0** – Pass a campsite on the left of the trail, and then continue uphill to the ridge.
- ▶ **Mile 1.23** – Arrive at the ridge, with Loudoun County to the east and Jefferson County to the west. The ridgeline is the boarder of Virginia and West Virginia. Continue along the ridge for another 0.44 miles where the AT crosses an old fire road.
- ▶ **Mile 1.67** – Climb to the top of a rise on the ridge.
- ▶ **Mile 2.02** – Pass a transmission tower on the right, with nice views of Loudoun valley when the leaves are off the trees. Pass around the west side of the ridge and descend slightly to the intersection of the blue blazed David Lesser Shelter Trail.
- ▶ **Mile 3.2** – Descend to the David Lesser Shelter. There is a separate sheltered chair swing next to the main shelter, as well as a large group campground 50 yards below the shelter. A seasonal spring is also located below and to the right of the shelter. Return to the AT and turn right.
- ▶ **Mile 6.4** – Arrive back at the Keys Gap parking area
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