





## Big Schloss - Columbia Furnace, Virginia

| Length  | Difficulty  | Streams | Views | Solitude | Camping |
|---|---|---------|-------|----------|---------|
| 4.1 mls   | ★   | NA      | ★     | ★        | ★       |
| <b>Hiking Time:</b>   | 4 hours with a half hour for lunch                |         |       |          |         |
| <b>Elev. Gain:</b>  | 1,035 ft  |         |       |          |         |
| <b>Links:</b>   | <a href="#">George Washington National Forest</a> |         |       |          |         |
| <b>Directions from DC:</b> Take I66 west towards Front Royal, Merge onto I81 south 17 miles, Exit on VA42 west (exit 283) for 6 miles, In Columbia Furnace right on VA675 and immediately after the creek bridge turn left (Wolf Gap Road VA675) for 6 miles to Wolf Gap Recreation Area. |   |         |       |          |         |

Big Schloss is another treasure in the George Washington National Forest. Relatively easy at only 4.4 miles and 1,000 vertical feet, it's the sister hike to Tibbet Knob which heads to the south from the same parking location.

Big Schloss peak, named by German immigrants provides a wonderful view of the surrounding valleys. Make sure to bring a packed lunch because you will want to linger at the Big Schloss rock outcropping and soak in the view.

If you want to make a weekend out of it, the Wolf Gap recreation area has 9 well maintained campsites with bathroom facilities. If you have some extra hiking time consider hiking the Tibbet Knob route as well. The views are every bit as good.

Leave the Wolf Gap Campground (near campsite #9) and start up the orange blazed Mill Mountain Trail to begin the steepest portion of the hike. The first mile has several switch backs before arriving at the ridge line of Mill Mountain.

Once getting to the ridge line, turn left and continue following the now narrower trail as it follows the ridge before arriving at the junction of the Big Schloss Trail in 1.9 miles.

Turn right onto the white blazed Big Schloss Trail for another 0.3 miles before crossing a wooden bridge that will take you to the overlook just 50 yards further along. Enjoy the view it's one of the best!

To return, just retrace your route back to the Wolf gap Campground.