

Official Map and Guide

**National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior**

Shenandoah National Park lies astride a beautiful section of the Blue Ridge, which forms the eastern rampart of the Appalachian Mountains between Pennsylvania and Georgia. In the valley to the west is the Shenandoah River, from which the park gets its name, and between the north and south forks of the river is Massanutten, a 40-mile-long mountain. To the east is the rolling Piedmont country. Providing vistas of the spectacular landscape is Skyline Drive, a winding road that runs along the Blue Ridge through the length of the park.

The mountain farmers cleared land, hunted wildlife, and grazed sheep and cattle. By the early 20th century, though, logging by

Today the park faces many new challenges as air quality declines, forest pests invade, and land use patterns change. The largest

Spring begins in March with the blooming of red maple, serviceberry, and hepatica. Chipmunks and groundhogs appear. The weather may change quickly. The green of leafing trees moves up the ridge at the rate of about 100 feet a day and does not reach the peaks until late May. Wildflowers bloom during April and May, and the large-flowered trillium carpets the forest floor. Pink azalea blooms in late May followed by mountain laurel in June. Migrating birds in their breeding plumage are numerous. You are sure to encounter new sights, colors, sounds wherever you venture in Shenandoah National Park.

Whatever time of year you are here, new sights and discoveries await you. On either side of Skyline Drive are ridges and valleys, hills and hollows, laced with sparkling streams and waterfalls. Trails take you into the forests of Shenandoah, where you can see plants and animals and experience the beauty and peace of this vast land. This is your park; please take time to enjoy it and to discover some of its many secrets beyond the drive.

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A photograph of a young boy with dark hair, wearing a red long-sleeved shirt and dark pants, running through a field of tall, dry grass. He is looking down at something in his hands. The background is a vast, open field under a bright sky.

Fishing for native brook trout provides a challenge to those who are willing to hike to streams in the park. A Virginia license is required; a five-day license is available at Big Meadows and Loft Mountain waysides. An annual listing of streams open to fishing is available at visitor information centers.



4.6	Dickey Ridge	●				●	●	●		●
22.2	Mathews Arm								●	●
24.0	Elkwallow		●	●		●				●
31.5	Panorama									●
41.7	Skyland			●	●		●	●		●
51.0	Big Meadows	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●
57.5	Lewis Mountain				●	●			●	●
79.5	Loft Mountain	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●
83.7	Dundo Group Camp								●	●

