

# Shenandoah

NATIONAL PARK

VIRGINIA



# Shenandoah

## NATIONAL PARK

The Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia are famed for their scenic loveliness, romantic setting, and historical association. In the heart of these lofty mountains is the Shenandoah National Park. Its majestic tree-covered peaks reach elevations of more than 4,000 feet above the sea. Much of the time these peaks are softened by a faint blue haze from which the mountains get their name. From the highway and trails which closely follow the crest of the ridge, unforgettable panoramas spread out in every direction. Shenandoah, an Indian name, is reputed to mean "Daughter of the Stars."

The park comprises 193,480 acres of Federal lands in the highest and most scenic section of the northern Blue Ridge range. It extends from Front Royal on the north to the vicinity of Waynesboro on the south, an airline distance of 75 miles.

The Blue Ridge Mountains, running generally in a northeast-southwesterly direction, rise abruptly from the Shenandoah Valley, forming a western escarpment and reaching a maximum elevation of 4,049 feet at Hawksbill Mountain. The rise on the Piedmont, or eastern, side is more gradual, and numerous spur ridges and foothills extend eastward from the crest of the range. Between these spur ridges, deep forested hollows are drained by turbulent mountain streams which form waterfalls of varying heights. Many of the hollows and ridges may be reached by trail.

### Historical Background

The Shenandoah region is rich in historical lore, some of which predates the founding of the United States.

The first record of exploration tells of the westward journey of John Lederer in 1669. In 1716, Governor Spotswood and his Knights of the Golden Horseshoe, seeking an answer to the mystery of the great western lands, penetrated the Blue Ridge and crossed through the park, probably at Swift Run Gap. Soon afterward the mountain hollows on the east side of the

ridge were settled, mostly by pioneers from the seaboard. Similarly, emigrants from the north filtered southward through the Great Valley of Virginia, and many of them carved out homesites on the western slopes.

The Shenandoah Valley became an artery of critical importance during the War Between the States. General "Stonewall" Jackson's valley campaign is recognized as a superb example of military tactics. The mountain gaps within the park were strategically important and were used frequently during these campaigns.

The idea for a national park in the Southern Appalachian Mountains originated in the early 1920's. In succeeding years, the State and people of Virginia, together with public-spirited conservationists from other parts of the United States, purchased 176,430 acres of Blue Ridge Mountain lands. This area was deeded to the Federal Government for administration and development as a national park in 1935. The park was formally dedicated on July 3, 1936. Since then, additions of other lands, purchased partly with Federal funds, have been made.

### Natural Features

**Forests.**—Ninety-five percent of the park supports a forest cover which is predominantly oak. The remaining area is mostly meadowland.

In addition to several kinds of oaks, there are hickories, black locusts, black gums, American chestnuts, maples, American lindens, and walnuts. Along stream courses may be found birches, tuliptrees, American sycamores, and elms. There are

Falls in White Oak Canyon



The National Park System, of which this park is a unit, is dedicated to conserving the scenic, scientific, and historic heritage of the United States for the benefit and enjoyment of its people.

a number of evergreens, including pine, red spruce, Canada hemlock, eastern redcedar, Canada yew, and bracted balsam fir.

The Skyline Drive, for the most part, passes through forests which prefer moist soil. The most notable exception is the dry-soil forest in the south section of the park. The characteristically dwarfed appearance of the deciduous trees overtopped by pine serves to distinguish the dry-soil forest from the moist-soil forest which predominates in the park.

Certain sections of the park support a variety of shrubs. Notable among these are the azalea, the wild sweet crabapple, and the hawthorn which bloom in May, followed in summer by the ninebark, Jersey-tea, and the sumac. During late May and June the mountain-laurel transforms the mountainsides into a mass of bloom.

Trees with a profusion of blossoms include cherry, eastern redbud, flowering dogwood, tuliptree, American chestnut, and black locust. As they bloom and leaf out, the deciduous trees produce a pageant of color in the spring which is surpassed only by the vivid tints of autumn foliage. Usually the fall colors reach their height between October 10 and 20.

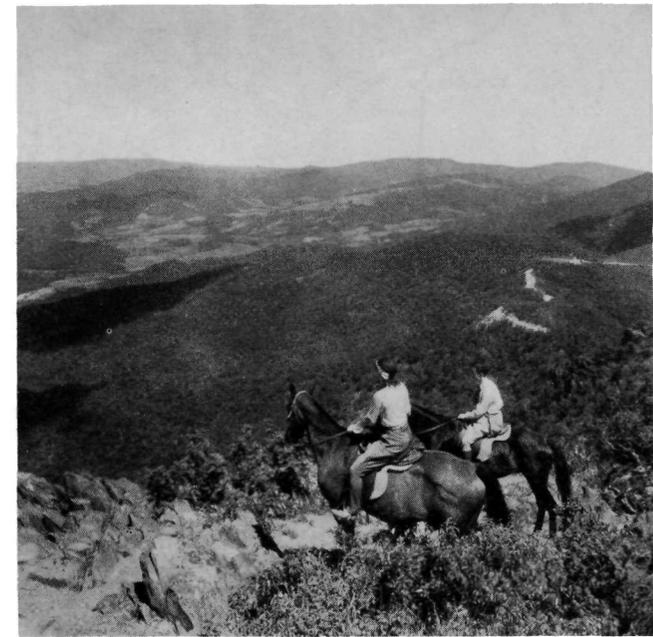
**Wildflowers.**—One of the outstanding natural attractions of the park is the profusion of wildflowers which bloom everywhere from mid-April to early November. It is not uncommon during the summer to identify as many as 80 different species of blooming plants in the course of a single day's trip.

Masses of violets, bluets, marshmarigold, golden groundsel, trillium, and field hawkweed of spring give way in summer to yarrow, eastern columbine, wild carrot, common vipersbugloss, cohosh, oxeye-daisy, black-eyed-susan, fireweed, milkweeds, snapweeds, and the turkscap lily. In autumn, the goldenrod, asters, ironweeds, and the witchhazel are conspicuous, together with the brightly colored fruits of flowering dogwood, white baneberry, jack-in-the-pulpit, sumac, and common winterberry.

Several comparatively rare plants grow in the park. These include gentians, purple trillium, beadlilies, fringe-orchids, wood lilies, and cardinalflowers. The very fact that these plants are conspicuous and attractive has contributed to their virtual extinction in many places because they have been picked by thoughtless individuals. *Please leave the wildflowers for others to enjoy.*

**Wildlife.**—About 40 different kinds of mammals are known to inhabit Shenandoah. Frequently you may see gray squirrels, chipmunks, groundhogs or woodchucks, cottontail rabbits, and skunks. Whitetail deer are increasing, and signs of black bear have been noted. National parks are wildlife sanctuaries; hunting and trapping are prohibited.

More than 200 kinds of birds have been observed in the park. You are sure to see ravens, crows, vultures, and hawks. Those who seek the solitude of the woods are likely to find eastern ruffed grouse, wild turkey, scarlet tanagers, cardinals, bluejays, sparrows, warblers, woodpeckers, and a host of others.



Seeing the park from the trails

Lizards, snapping turtles, box turtles, and about 15 species of snakes represent the reptilian population of the park. Two of the snakes are poisonous—the timber rattlesnake and the copperhead. However, if you remain on established trails you need have little fear of meeting snakes.

The park streams are excellent places to observe insects, salamanders, fishes, birds, and other animals.

There is a wealth of butterflies and moths, beetles, and other insects, but the area is singularly free of mosquitoes.

**Earth History.**—Those who are interested in the story of the formation of the hills and valleys and of the rocks and minerals composing them will find much to command their attention in Shenandoah National Park. They will recognize the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains as a remnant of a once vast plain which extended from the mountain ridges to the west toward the shoreline of the sea. The carving of the mountains and valleys out of this plain is one of the later chapters in the earth history of this area. You may also recognize in the greenstone rocks of

#### NATURAL HISTORY PUBLICATIONS

The Shenandoah Natural History Association, organized to further the interpretive program, makes available for purchase, guidebooks, maps and pamphlets selected to help you understand and enjoy the park's natural features. Ask a ranger where they may be obtained.

## What To Do

**Motoring.**—Skyline Drive traverses the entire length of the park along the crest of the mountains for 105 miles. This Drive intersects U. S. 211 at Thornton Gap, U. S. 33 at Swift Run Gap, and U. S. 250 at Rockfish Gap.

During heavy storms and fog, the Drive may be closed to motor traffic for short periods. Signs are usually posted at park entrances when hazardous driving conditions prevail.

Parking overlooks, at intervals along the Drive, afford the motorist an opportunity to stop and enjoy the breathtaking panoramas. To the west lies the eastern section of the historic Shenandoah Valley, with the meandering South Fork of the Shenandoah River, its green and brown patchwork fields, and small woodlands. The Massanutten Range is immediately beyond and the main Allegheny Range melts into the far horizon. To the east lies the Piedmont Plateau with numerous forested foothills becoming ever smaller in the distance.

The lodge, cabins, waysides, campgrounds, picnic grounds, and trails may all be reached from the Drive.

**Hiking.**—Shenandoah's trail system leads to streams and waterfalls, along ridges into hollows, and to cliffs and mountaintops, where some of the most beautiful scenery is to be found.

Following the crest of the Blue Ridge through the park is a 94-mile graded trail. This main trail is a designated section of the Appalachian Trail, a marked pathway extending 2,028 miles from Maine to Georgia. The trail crosses the Drive at several points and is accessible from many of the overlooks. Short side trail trips may be taken to more remote sections of the park.

Trail maps, one for each of the three park sections, are published by the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, Inc., Washington, D. C., and may be purchased also in the park. Detailed trail data and much useful information for hikers and campers in the park are also published by the Trail Club.

For overnight hikers there are several locked, trailside cabins, provided with bunks, mattresses, blankets, cooking utensils, and other necessities. They are operated by the Trail Club, and reservations are required in advance. A small charge is made.

Trailside shelters (three-sided structures containing bunks, with an outdoor fireplace for heating and cooking), for the benefit of hikers only, are located at convenient intervals along the Appalachian Trail and at other points in the park. There is no charge for their use: first come, first served. Shelters must be shared with other parties. The usual rules of trail etiquette are observed by occupants of the shelters in caring for the structures and surroundings. A supply of dry wood should always be left inside.

Permits must be obtained in person from a park ranger if fires are to be built in other than the fireplaces provided in the established camp and picnic areas. Campfire permits are not issued during fire season.

**Horseback Riding.**—Saddle horses may be rented at Skyland in summer and early fall. Overnight pack trips or short rides by the hour or day may be arranged.

**Naturalist Service.**—During the summer a varied program of nature walks and other guided trips is offered. From May through October, illustrated evening talks on natural or human history are given frequently in the evenings. These activities, directed by the park naturalist, originate at both Skyland and Big Meadows areas and are free. Naturalist schedules are available at the entrance stations, concession units, and other public places.

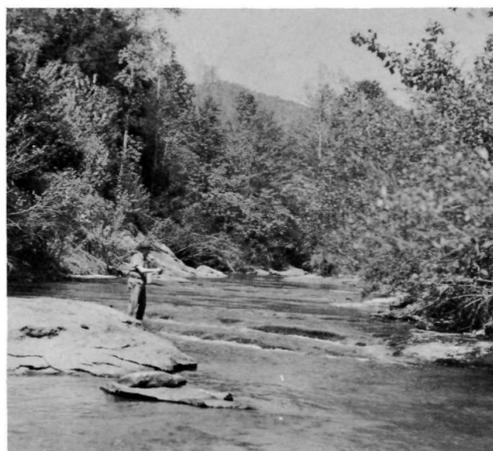
**Photography.**—Although haze frequently interferes with securing clear, distant landscapes, excellent scenic photography is possible. Pictures and film are on sale at gift shops in the park.

**Picnicking.**—The seven free picnic grounds are complete with parking space, tables, fireplaces, water, and comfort stations.

**Camping.**—Campers and picnickers should bring camp stoves or fuel for fireplaces since wood is not always available. Limited food supplies, charcoal burners, and fuel may be obtained at Big Meadows Wayside. Electricity is not available. Use of campgrounds is free but limited to 30 days during the heavy travel season from May 15 to Labor Day. Reservations for campsites cannot be made.

**Fishing.**—Fishing for brook trout may be enjoyed in many of the park streams. A Virginia State fishing license is required. Fishermen should secure a copy of the special regulations governing fishing in park waters from a park ranger or at the superintendent's office. Generally, the season extends from May 1 to July 10.

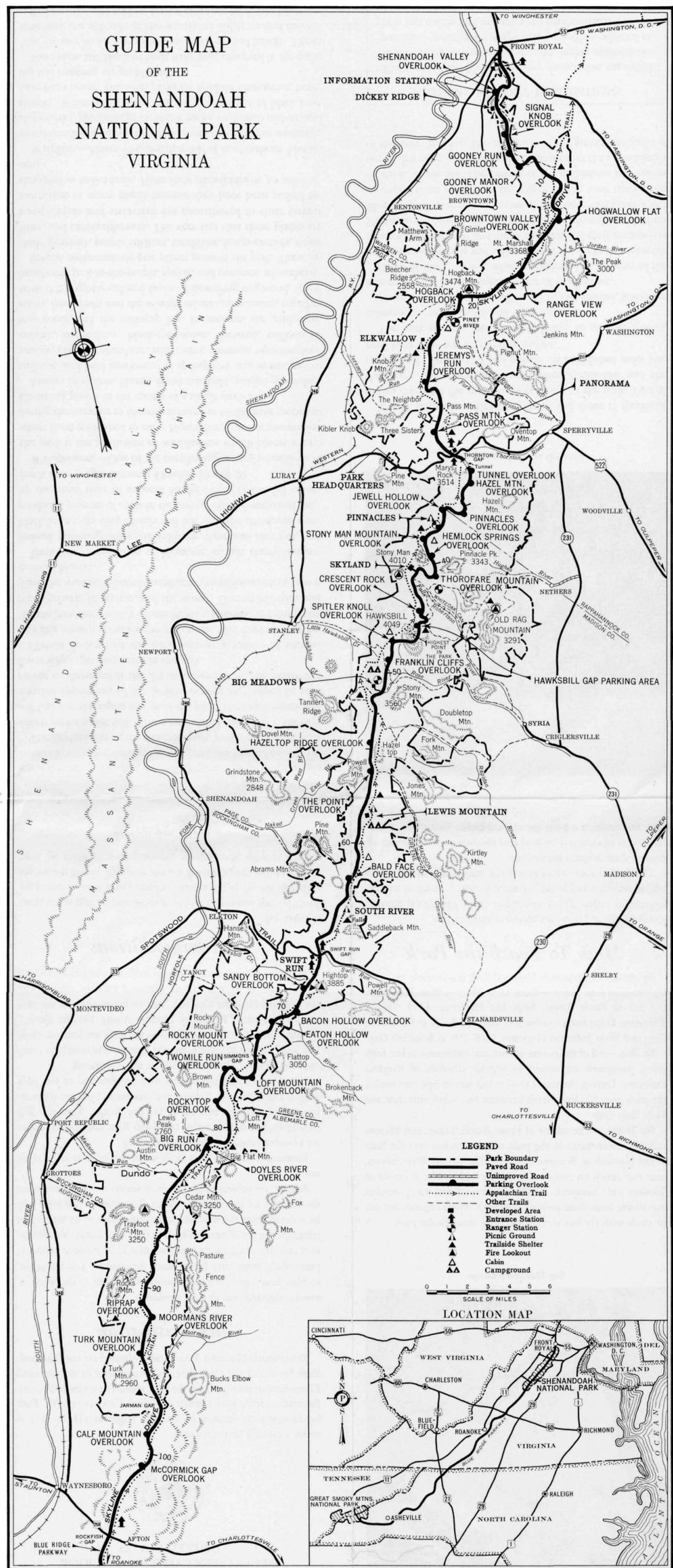
Trout fishing attracts many anglers to the park streams



## Points of Interest Along Skyline Drive

Numbered mileposts along the Drive will help you locate the points of interest below. Each mile is numbered progressively southward beginning with the zero marker at the northern (Front Royal) entrance.

Miles	Place	Elevation, feet
0.0	Junction U. S. 340 and the Drive . . .	595
0.6	North Entrance Station—Information . . .	705
2.8	Shenandoah Valley Overlook—Information Station . . .	1,390
4.6	Dickey Ridge—Cabins, restaurant, souvenirs, gas and oil (summer). Free picnic grounds with water, comfort station . . .	1,940
17.1	Range View Overlook—Splendid view of Blue Ridge peaks to southwest . . .	2,810
21.0	Hogback Overlook—Highest point on Drive in north section. 11 bends in Shenandoah River visible on clear day . . .	3,385
22.3	Piney River Ranger Station . . .	3,050
24.1	Elkwallow—Light lunch, souvenirs, gas and oil (summer). Free picnic grounds with tables, fireplaces, water, comfort station . . .	2,445
31.5	Panorama (intersection with U. S. 211)—Meals, souvenirs, gas and oil, comfort station (except winter) . . .	2,304
31.6	Thornton Gap (south) Entrance Station—Information . . .	2,315
32.4	Marys Rock Tunnel and Tunnel Overlook. Trail to Marys Rock . . .	2,545
36.7	Pinnacles—Free picnic grounds with tables, fireplaces, water, comfort station . . .	3,350
37.4	Pinnacles Ranger Station . . .	3,230
38.7	Stony Man Mountain Overlook—Outstanding views of Stony Man profile and valley panorama. Water, comfort station . . .	3,100
39.2	Little Stony Man Cliffs Parking Area—A 0.6-mile walk to spectacular view . . .	3,215
41.8	Entrance Skyland—Highest point on Skyline Drive . . .	3,680
	Skyland—Cottages, dining room, coffee-shop, gift shop, comfort station, saddle horses (late May to late October). Stony Man Nature Trail . . .	
42.6	Whiteoak Canyon Trail Parking Area—Start of 2.3-mile trail to first and largest of 6 waterfalls in canyon. Trailside scenery outstanding . . .	3,510
44.5	Crescent Rock Overlook—Best view of Hawksbill Mountain (elevation 4,049 feet, highest mountain in park) . . .	3,550
45.7	Hawksbill Gap Parking Area—Trail to summit of Hawksbill Mountain . . .	3,365
49.4	Dark Hollow Falls Trail . . .	3,070
51.3	Big Meadows Wayside—Coffeeshop, souvenirs, gas and oil, comfort station (except winter) . . .	3,500
	Big Meadows—Lodge, dining room, gift shop (except winter). Free picnic grounds with tables, fireplaces, water, comfort station. Free tent and trailer campground with tables, fireplaces, water, comfort station, laundry, and shower. Ranger Station . . .	
57.6	Lewis Mountain—Cabins, meals, souvenirs (except winter). Free picnic grounds with tables, fireplaces, water, comfort station. Free tent and trailer campground with tables, fireplaces, water, comfort station . . .	3,390
62.9	South River—Free picnic grounds with tables, fireplaces, water, comfort station. Foot trail to South River Falls . . .	2,940
64.5	Swift Run Gap (north) Entrance Station—Information . . .	2,680
65.7	Swift Run Gap (intersection with U. S. 33)—Meals, cabins, souvenirs, gas and oil, comfort station (except winter) . . .	2,365
73.2	Simmons Gap Ranger Station . . .	2,245
78.2	Rockytop Overlook—Spectacular view over Big Run drainage—largest watershed in park . . .	2,860
83.9	Dundo—Free picnic grounds with tables, fireplaces, water, toilets . . .	2,785
90.1	Calvary Rocks Parking Area—Trail to Calvary Rocks ridge and Riprap Hollow . . .	2,730
92.2	Moormans River Overlook—View of city of Charlottesville reservoir . . .	2,975
96.9	Jarman Gap—Picnicking (tables only) . . .	2,175
104.6	South Entrance Station—Information . . .	2,070
105.4	Rockfish Gap—Intersection with U. S. 250. Blue Ridge Parkway continues south from this point. Parkway Information Station located 3 miles beyond . . .	1,910



these mountains the great age of these earlier formations, which have been so changed by heat and pressure as to obliterate all trace of their original appearance.

The folded rock strata reveal the magnitude of the forces which wrinkled and broke the earth's crust, causing an overlap for several miles. These and many other geological features reveal a long and complex record of earth events.

## How To Reach the Park

**By Auto.**—Shenandoah National Park is accessible via main highways at four points—from U. S. 340 and State Routes 55 and 522 at Front Royal; from Lee Highway, U. S. 211, at Thornton Gap; from Spotswood Trail, U. S. 33, at Swift Run Gap; and from Jefferson Highway, U. S. 250, at Rockfish Gap.

**By Bus.**—All of the points of entrance mentioned in the foregoing paragraph are served by regular schedule of Virginia Trailways. During the travel season, bus service operates within the park over Skyline Drive between the north entrance and Swift Run Gap.

**By Train.**—The towns of Front Royal, Luray, and Elkton, each near an entrance to the park, may be reached over the lines of the Norfolk & Western Railway. The city of Waynesboro, near the south entrance, may be reached by the Norfolk & Western and Chesapeake & Ohio Railways. Local transportation is available from these points to the park, where connections can be made with the bus service operating through the park.

Big Meadows Lodge



## Park Season

Even though Shenandoah National Park is open all year, facilities other than camping are not available during the winter and early spring. In the winter, Skyline Drive may be closed for short periods pending removal of snow and ice and when there is heavy fog.

## Accommodations

All of the lodging and restaurant facilities, the gift shops, and service stations in Shenandoah National Park are operated by the Virginia Sky-Line Co., Inc. Seasons for facilities in the park are listed under "Points of Interest Along Skyline Drive." While types of accommodations in the park are limited, there is a wide choice of cabins, tourist homes, and hotels in communities nearby, which are available the year round.

Hotel-type accommodations may be obtained in the park only at Big Meadows. Cabins, with rooms and private connecting baths, may be rented at Dickey Ridge, Skyland, Big Meadows, Lewis Mountain, and Swift Run Crossroads. There are no cabins equipped for housekeeping.

Restaurant and gift-shop facilities are available at all of these units.

As rates are subject to change from season to season, no prices for facilities are given in this folder. Reservations and rates may be secured from the nearest concessioner unit or by writing or telegraphing the Virginia Sky-Line Co., Inc., Luray, Va. Whenever possible, lodging reservations should be made in advance, particularly from early July to early September. You are urged to plan your trip to the park during the middle of the week to avoid congested periods over weekends.

## Administration

Shenandoah National Park is administered by the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior. Communications regarding the park should be addressed to the Superintendent, Shenandoah National Park, Luray, Va. Park headquarters are located on the Lee Highway (U. S. 211), 4 miles west of Thornton Gap.



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Douglas McKay, *Secretary*  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Conrad L. Wirth, *Director*

## This Is Your Park

You are one of over a million visitors to the park each year. In order that all may have a safe visit and that the park's features may be preserved for all to enjoy, you are requested to observe the following regulations:

Drive carefully. The park SPEED LIMIT IS 35 MILES PER HOUR. If you have an accident, report it to a park ranger.

Don't be a litterbug. Deposit your refuse in receptacles provided at all parking and picnic areas.

LEAVE THE FLOWERS FOR OTHERS TO ENJOY. The land, the flowers, the forests belong to everyone.

Protect the wildlife. Watch for animals as you drive and try to avoid hitting them with your car. The park is a sanctuary for wildlife and hunting is prohibited.

Build fires only in the fireplaces provided in picnic areas and campgrounds. While driving, deposit your matches and burning tobacco in the ashtray of your car. Remember, fire is the forest's greatest foe.

Dogs and cats must be kept on a leash or otherwise under physical restrictive control at all times while in the park.

Park rangers are here to help you as well as to enforce regulations. If you are in any difficulty, or need information, see a park ranger.

### VISITOR USE FEES

Fees are charged for all vehicles entering the Skyline Drive, except during the winter. The fees are: 50 cents for a 1-day permit for automobiles, motorcycles, or house-trailers; \$1 for a calendar-year permit. For commercial sightseeing vehicles the fee is \$10 for a 1-day permit, \$1 per passenger seat for a quarterly permit, or \$3.50 per passenger seat for a calendar-year permit. For commercial vehicles of 5 passengers or less, a daily permit is \$2.

Cover picture: The Shenandoah Valley lies 3,000 feet below the summit of Stony Man Mountain

(MAP OF PARK INSIDE)

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