

Shenandoah

NATIONAL PARK, VIRGINIA

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HAVE A SAFE VISIT TO SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

Wear proper footwear when walking on trails. Most visitor injuries are caused by falls.

Do your sightseeing from overlooks and trails—not while driving.

All park animals are wild. Do not feed or approach them. Bears roam the park, so safeguard all food to protect yourself and your property.

Know where your children are at all times. Always plan where to meet if you become separated.

Stay on trails. Shortcutting is dangerous to yourself and others below you, and injurious to the park. Only water from developed areas can be considered safe. Boil all other water for one minute. When in doubt, ask a park ranger.

In case of an emergency, contact a park ranger or call the headquarters emergency number: 703-999-2227.

National Park Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

To know Shenandoah National Park, to discover its secrets, take time to stop, look, listen, and explore. For adventure, leave your car at one of the overlooks or visitor-use areas, and hike or ride horseback along the trail. Between Skyline Drive and Shenandoah's boundaries are miles of ridges and valleys, hills and hollows, laced with sparkling streams and waterfalls. Trout lurk in shadowed pools, and wild gardens of rock, vines, shrubs, and wildflowers nestle only a short walk from the busy roadway.

Shenandoah National Park lies astride a spectacularly beautiful part of the Blue Ridge, which forms the eastern rampart of the Appalachian Range from Pennsylvania to Georgia. The Shenandoah River, from which the park's name is derived, lies to the west, flowing northeastward between the Blue Ridge and the Allegheny Mountains. Massanutten, the 40-mile-long, straight-profiled mountain you see from many Skyline Drive overlooks, lies between the North and South Forks of the Shenandoah. To the east of the Blue Ridge is rolling Piedmont country.

From the mid-eighteenth century on into the 1900's the hollows, ridges, and slopes that now constitute the national park were the home of mountain people. These hardy folk eked out a marginal existence by growing corn, beans, cabbages, and apples; by raising chickens, hogs, and cows; and by producing from the bounty of the forest and the harvest of their stony fields such market commodities as tanbark, honey, moonshine, and furs. Theirs was a highly self-sufficient culture. They developed their own techniques for smoking meats, rendering lard, preserving vegetables and fruits for winter use, and making household furnishings and farm implements. They devised their own recreational pursuits, created their own music, and passed on their traditions from generation to generation.

During the first decades of this century many of the mountain people left this land, which had become steadily less productive, in search of an easier life in the lowlands. The lumber companies had depleted the forests; most of the game was gone; the soil was worn out from misuse and much of it washed down the slopes; and cash was always scarce. When the plans for a new 300-square-mile national park to be carved out of the Blue Ridge were taking shape, it was necessary to make provision for the future of the remaining mountaineers. New communities were established in the valleys below the Blue Ridge, and the fam-

ilies moved down into Government-financed homes that were closer to schools, jobs, and the amenities of civilization.

With improvement in the economic lot of the mountain folk, the crafts they had developed over generations to enable them to exist in their isolated and harsh environment came into disuse. Today only a few old-timers retain the skills that enabled them to fashion finished products from the raw materials of the mountains, using only their hands and their homemade tools.

Following establishment of the park, cessation of timber-cutting operations, and relocation of the mountain people, nature rapidly began to heal the scars of man's long exploitation of the land. Vegetation soon masked the stone walls, rail fences, and rusting barbed wire; and pines, locusts, and other pioneer forest trees reclaimed the cut-over forests and worn-out fields. Today few signs remain as evidence of the mountain culture. Here and there old apple trees bear blemished fruit; but the crop is harvested by black bears and white-tailed deer. Raccoons, opossums, skunks, squirrels, turkeys, and woodland songbirds again abound, and beavers have returned to the fringes of the park. On the other hand, animals adapted to grassy or brushy environs, such as the cottontail, quail, and red fox, declined in numbers as the pastures, cornfields, and farmyards were gradually taken over by the new forest. The landscape, even without the late, lamented American chestnut, has regained its primitive character to such a degree that nearly two-fifths (80,000 acres) of the park has been officially designated as wilderness by Congress.

By far the greatest number of visitors enjoy Shenandoah's scenic beauty from the 105-mile Skyline Drive. Numerous parking overlooks along the Drive present panoramas of the Piedmont and the Shenandoah Valley. The map in this folder is keyed to concrete markers, numbered from north to south along the Drive to serve as your guide to park features, facilities, and services. These markers are placed every mile, but only on the mile. Example: **Milepost 31**. Features "between the posts" are shown in tenths of a mile. Example: **Panorama Restaurant, Mile 31.5**.

Dickey Ridge Visitor Center at Mile 4.6 is open daily from early spring through fall. The Byrd Visitor Center at Big Meadows near Milepost 51 is open daily, year round, except during January and February. Visitor centers offer exhibits, pro-

grams, guide maps, literature, slides, and pictures to enhance your visit.

Visitor Activities, a listing, is free at visitor centers, entrance stations, and lodges. It tells where to meet ranger-naturalists for summer field trips, and the dates and hours of campfire programs at Matthews Arm, Skyland, Big Meadows, Lewis Mountain, and Loft Mountain. On your own, throughout the year, you can enjoy the self-guiding nature trails.

To learn what's going on in Shenandoah, check one of the park's 50 outdoor bulletin boards. Park rangers will help you with special questions or in emergencies.

ACCOMMODATIONS

ARA-Virginia Sky-Line Company, Inc. (Box 727, Luray, VA 22835), a park concessioner, operates lodge and cottage accommodations for more than 900 guests in the Park's central district at Skyland, Big Meadows, and Lewis Mountain. Food service, gift shops, and service stations; and facilities for campers, such as grocery and camping-supply stores, shower and laundry buildings, ice and wood sales lots, and riding stables are located at various points along Skyline Drive. All facilities are operated in summer; some are available in spring and fall. Skyline Drive may be closed by snow or ice for short periods in winter. Contact headquarters for winter information: 703-999-2266.

Another park concessioner, the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (1718 N St., N.W., Washington, DC 20036), maintains six trail cabins for hikers. Advance reservations and keys must be obtained by mail from the club.

There are five campgrounds and seven picnic areas in the park. Big Meadows Campground is open all year. Advance reservations are accepted for the Dundo organized youth group campground.

PUBLICATIONS

In addition to maps, color prints, and slides, a number of books are available which provide detailed information to help you enjoy the park. Write to the Shenandoah Natural History Association, Luray, VA 22835, for a list of titles and prices.

At peace with the ages, the wilderness heights of the Blue Ridge lie in quiet repose above the pastoral beauty of the Shenandoah Valley.



Shenandoah has three National Environmental Study Areas (NESA) for school class use.

ADMINISTRATION

The headquarters of Shenandoah National Park is 4 miles west of Thornton Gap and 4 miles east of Luray on U.S. 211. Questions or comments about the park may be sent to the Superintendent, Shenandoah National Park, Luray, VA 22835.

REGULATIONS

Maximum speed is 35 miles per hour. Lower speeds are posted in many areas. Commercial trucking is restricted to park business only. Vehicles must stay on public roads. Report all accidents to the nearest park ranger as soon as possible. Bicycles and motor vehicles are prohibited on trails. Chains and snow tires may be required in winter.

Collecting souvenirs, picking wildflowers, and feeding wildlife are prohibited.

Pets must be leashed and (except Seeing Eye dogs) are not allowed in public buildings or on posted trails.

A free camping permit, required for all backcountry camping, is available at entrance stations, visitor centers, park headquarters, or by mail from the superintendent.

Hunting with any kind of weapon is prohibited. Before entering the park, firearms must be made inoperative and packed away.

In order that more persons may enjoy camping in the park, the length of stay at park campgrounds is limited to 14 days from June 1 through October 31. At Big Meadows, camping is by reservation only during the summer. Shenandoah National Park is a Federal fee area. Fees are not refundable due to bad weather.



