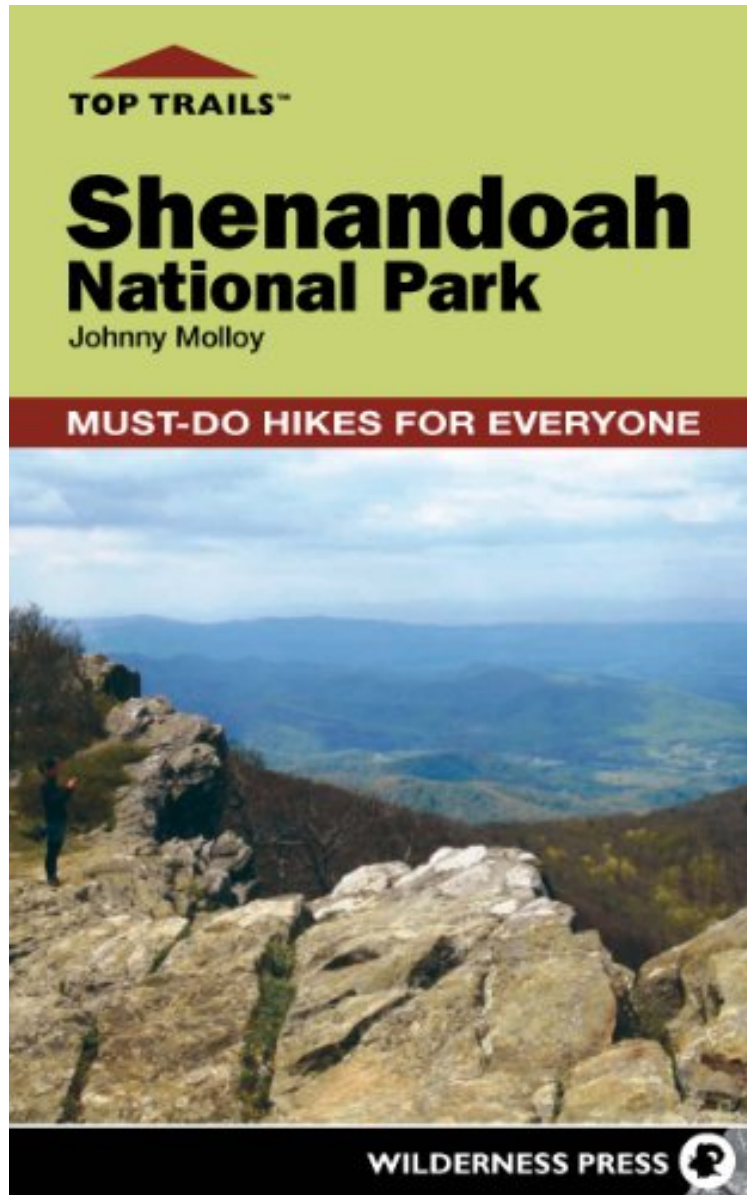


(Download) Top Trails: Shenandoah National Park: Must-Do Hikes for Everyone

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Johnny Molloy

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Johnny Molloy : Top Trails: Shenandoah National Park: Must-Do Hikes for Everyone before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Top Trails: Shenandoah National Park: Must-Do Hikes for Everyone:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Excellent summary of trails. By Sunny This is a "must have" book. You can spend several weeks on the internet trying to find all these hikes; or yes; it is all summarized in this book. What I liked was it was in summarized and then detailed. You can find the hike in miles; time; length and many other ways. Just a great overall book. Nice size. . Great to have while at the Nat. Park. My goal; go on each one. . . and there is room along the side to write notes. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Love the way this is organized. By Mlw3hk Love the way this is organized! Read lots of reviews about which guidebook to purchase and glad I went with this one! It's black and white (vs. color photos) inside but that didn't bother me. The trail guides are comprehensive and easy to understand. Can't wait to start checking them off! 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Good book for planning day hikes. By Wayne I'm a day hiker. I really liked the format: The key was the summary table of hikes at the beginning of book that listed the more important attributes of each hike for easy selection (Distance, difficulty, type, use access, terrain, etc). You can "look inside!" beginning of book to see what I mean. The full hike descriptions themselves have all usual information.

Top Trails: Shenandoah National Park saves readers the time and frustration of finding the perfect hikes to suit their desires. Not only are there hundreds of miles of trails running like veins down and along a narrow mountain spine, but with millions of guests annually, Shenandoah National Park is a heavily visited destination. This book was conceived to make the backcountry majesty of Shenandoah more accessible to visitors. This easy-access, reference type guide presents a variety of hikes from which to choose. The majority of the hikes steer you toward the most scenic areas, giving you the opportunity to enjoy your time on the trail instead of behind someone's car. Most hikes seek solitude to maximize your Shenandoah experience. However, as the subtitle of this book suggests, there are some "must do" hikes that are popular. Consequently, a few hikes traverse popular and potentially crowded areas. Each hike has a "best times" that will help you manage the trails to your advantage. Day hiking is the best and most popular way to "break into" the Shenandoah wilderness. But for those with the inclination to see the mountain cycle from day to night and back again, many hikes in this book can be used by backpackers as well. Backpackers must follow park backcountry camping regulations and practice "leave no trace" wilderness-use etiquette. Backpackers can capture the changing moods of the mountains as day turns to night, as weather cycles with the sun, as the permanent park residents go about their business of surviving and reproducing. With the Top Trails winning formula of easy-to-follow maps for every hike, trail-feature charts, feature icons, "don't get lost" trail milestones, and GPS waypoints, readers can easily identify the right trail for their interests, abilities, and available time.

About the Author Johnny Molloy is a writer and adventurer based in Johnson City, Tennessee. His outdoor passion was ignited on a backpacking trip in Great Smoky Mountains National Park while attending the University of Tennessee. That first foray unleashed a love of the outdoors that led Johnny to spend more than 4,000 nights backpacking, canoe camping, and tent camping throughout the country over the past three decades. If you put the days of camping all together, that is nearly 11 straight years of camping out. Friends enjoyed his outdoor adventure stories; one even suggested he write a book. He pursued his friends idea and soon parlayed his love of the outdoors into an occupation. The results of his efforts are more than 60 books and guides. His writings include hiking guidebooks, camping guidebooks, paddling guidebooks, comprehensive guidebooks about a specific area, and true outdoor adventure books covering all or parts of 26 states. Though primarily involved with book publications, Johnny also writes for magazines and websites. Furthermore, he is an outdoors columnist and feature writer for his local paper, the Johnson City Press. He continues writing and traveling extensively throughout the United States, endeavoring in a variety of outdoor pursuits. Johnny is an active member of First Presbyterian Church in Johnson City, Tennessee. He is also a Gideon. His non-outdoor interests include reading, Christian studies, and University of Tennessee sports. For the latest on Johnny, please visit www.johnnymolloy.com. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.

Stony Man Loop
TRAIL USE: Dayhiking, Pets Prohibited
LENGTH: 3.4 miles, 23 hours
CUMULATIVE ELEVATION: +800/-800'
DIFFICULTY: 3
TRAIL TYPE: Loop
START FINISH: N38 35.581' W78 22.548'
FEATURES
Ridgeline
Summit
Autumn Colors
Geologic Interest
Great Views
Historic Interest
FACILITIES
Nearby Skyland Resort
This hike traverses some of the highest terrain in the park. First you cruise a high-country nature trail and make a side loop to the summit of Stony Man Mountain, where cliffs rise 3,000 feet above the Shenandoah Valley and present superlative panoramas. You then take the Little Stony Man Trail to the peak of Little Stony Man, where more overlooks await. Your return trip is along the Passamaquoddy Trail, with still more views. Hike along the North Slope of Stony Man Mountain to reach Furnace Spring, which once was used in a copper mining operation. Climb through mixed evergreens and hardwoods back to the trailhead, completing this highlight-laden loop.

Best Time
This high-country hike will be cool even in summer. Yet you can best enjoy the views whenever the skies are clear, primarily spring and fall. Be apprised that the loop is busy on fair weather summer weekends.

Finding the Trail
This hike starts near the north entrance to Skyland Resort off Skyline Drive. At the turn you will see a sign indicating that this is the highest point on Skyline Drive. This turn is at milepost 41.7. Immediately after turning toward the Skyland Resort, turn right into the parking area for the Stony Man Nature Trail.

Trail Description
The beginning can be a little confusing. 1 Here a

sign indicates the path as the Stony Man Nature Trail; however, this is also the Appalachian Trail (AT). They run in conjunction here. You can purchase an interpretive booklet at the trailhead to enhance your nature trail experience. Walk a pleasant pea-gravel path amid fern gardens overlain by hardwoods. Preserved hemlocks add a touch of evergreen to the woods. Later you will also see a few spruce trees. At 0.4 mile, come to an intersection. 2 This is the highest point on the AT in Shenandoah National Park 3,837 feet. But you are fixing to get even higher. Turn left, still ascending to make the subloop to the summit of Stony Man, staying with the nature trail. Split right ahead, following the sequence of the interpretive posts. Note the squat, wind-sculpted haw trees as you climb. At 0.7 mile, reach a four-way trail intersection. Turn right toward the summit of Stony Man. Incredible panoramas open ahead. 3 To your left, you can see the Skyland Resort. Ahead lay Shenandoah Valley and the town of Luray, Massanutten Mountain running parallel to the Blue Ridge, and beyond that North Mountain forming the Virginia-West Virginia state line. To your right, northerly, look below at the upthrust cliffs of Little Stony Man and at Skyline Drive and the parks north district. The name Stony Man derives from this peak the parks second highest point looking like the face of a bearded man. The Stony Mans face can be clearly seen from the north on milepost 38.9 of Skyline Drive at Stony Man Mountain Overlook. Return to the Appalachian Trail, then resume a northbound direction. The trail drops steadily through northern hardwoods, including cool climate specialist yellow birch, on the east slope of the Blue Ridge. Reach the tan cliffs of Little Stony Man at 1.7 miles. 4 More grand views open before you. Look up to Stony Man for little stick figures milling about. The jagged cliffs have an especially rugged appearance as they emerge from the surrounding forest. The squared-off fields of Shenandoah Valley below contrast with the craggy mountains to your right. Return to woods beyond the cliff, switchback- ing downhill to make another trail junction at 1.9 miles. 5 Leave the white-blazed AT, and turn left on the Passamaquoddy Trail, blazed in blue. Soon pass beneath the cliffs of Little Stony Man on a path constructed with considerable effort from native stones. Open onto a lower outcrop that avails yet another overlook from which the west side of the Blue Ridge and Lake Arrowhead opens below. The rising slope of Stony Man Mountain is especially impressive. Begin meandering the northwest side of the peak on a steep slope, yet the well-constructed trail makes hiking a breeze. Walk beneath cliffs. Come to a rock overhang and dripping spring at 2.4 miles. At 2.5 miles, reach your low point of 3,200 feet, then begin a gentle uptick. Fire cherry trees are rising where hemlocks once stood. Pass beneath a transmission line at 2.8 miles. Reach Furnace Spring at 2.9 miles. 6 You can hear the water flowing behind a locked door. The old copper mine was in this vicinity and used the spring, but the shaft has since been filled in and no trail leads to it. Come to an intersection with Skyland Fire Road and the Furnace Spring Trail. Make a hard left here, joining the yellow- blazed Furnace Spring Trail, passing directly above Furnace Spring on a double-track. The path then narrows and reenters deep woods. Snake your way uphill in rocky forest. The trailbed is fainter here. Look for yellow blazes on the trailside trees amid more preserved hemlocks. Meet the Stony Man Horse Trail, and turn left, tracing it a short distance to reach the Stony Man Nature Trail parking area and the hikes conclusion.