

Coming to the area to enjoy the enjoy all that Shenandoah National Park has to offer? It's very easy to find your way around the Park. We hope this guide is helpful!

Here's the basics:

There is one road going through the Park (called Skyline Drive) and there are mile markers (#1 to #105) along the drive. The location of any trailhead, Lodge, or wayside will be indicated by its mile marker. There are four entrances to the Park. The entrance furthest to the north (at mile marker #1) is in Front Royal, VA and the furthest south (at mile marker #105) is in Waynesboro, VA. The two entrances in the middle - Thornton Gap Entrance (at mile marker #30) and Swift Run Gap Entrance (at mile marker #65) – are closest to our properties. Thornton Gap is a bit closer, about 15 miles away. The entire drive to the Park is beautiful as you'll be driving sparsely populated country roads and surrounded by mountains nearly the entire drive.

We suggest to our guests that you enter at the Thornton Gap Entrance and drive south. Be sure to get a free map and any trail maps you need (also free) at the Entrance Station. As you drive south, you can stop at any of the many beautiful overlooks to picnic or to stroll around on the paths/trails that you'll see at many of them. You can drive all the way to the Swift Run Gap Entrance and exit there, following your GPS to get back to us, or you can turn around and exit back through the Thornton Gap Entrance.

Our favorite hikes between Thornton Gap and Swift Run Entrance Stations are Stonyman Trail at mm# 41.7 (very easy, 1.6 miles, stunning views from the top), Rose River Loop at mm#49.4 (fairly easy, 4 miles, gorgeous cascading waterfalls and swimming holes and super peaceful wooded trail), Dark Hollow Falls at mm#50.7 (easy going in, straight uphill coming out, 1.4 miles, beautiful waterfall at the base), and Bear Fence Rock Scramble at mm #56.4 (easy climb but there is some rock scrambling, 1.1 miles, awesome views). Very easy paths are located at Big Meadows (mm#50).

Also between Thornton Gap and Swift Run Entrances are the Park's two Lodges – Skyland and Big Meadows. You can do some shopping, picnic, grab coffee, or dine in the restaurants there (open seasonally). Both have bathroom facilities and Big Meadows has a gas station. **There are a few picnic areas** along this stretch also, so bring sandwiches or even charcoal to enjoy a meal outdoors.

Useful Links:

[Click Here](#) for Shenandoah National Park website

[Click Here](#) for a list of hikes in the Park (note: the area from Thornton Gap to Swift Run Gap Entrances is called the Central District)

[Click Here](#) for a super helpful Park map

And a helpful hiking app to download: AllTrails