

149 - Hawksbill

At 1,239 metres Hawksbill is the highest peak of the Shenandoah National Park. The hike towards it is short and somewhat steep, but offers some spectacular 360-degree views over North Carolina, including a beautiful panoramic view of the canyon of Linville Gorge.

- From the Hawksbill Gap parking area (1) we follow the trail marked with blue signs on the trees, which is the Lower Hawksbill Trail. Ignore the other trail, which connects with the Appalachian Trail.
- Just before we reach the summit we reach a fork (2) where we turn right to reach the Hawksbill Summit (3).
- From the Hawksbill Summit we take the same trail back and turn right at the first fork (2), to enter the Upper Hawksbill Trail. This trail also is marked with blue signs on the trees.
- The Upper Hawksbill Trail ends at a parking area (4). We cross the road, turn to the right until a bit further on we find another trail (5), which we follow.
- After a short while we find a trail to the left (6), marked with yellow signs on the trees. On this trail ignore any side-trails and stay on the main trail following the yellow signs, which runs parallel to the Skyline Drive.
- Eventually we end at a trail with blue signs where we turn left (7) to return to the Hawksbill Gap parking area (1).

Fact Sheet

Duration: 1:45 hrs.
 Distance: 5.3 km
 Route type: Circular route
 Path type: Trails
 Marking: Blue and yellow dots
 Total difference in altitude: 260 m.
 Highest point: 1,232 m.
 Difficulty: Easy (1/14)



How to get there?

Like for most hikes in the Shenandoah National Park, we need to take the Skyline Drive. The Skyline Drive has four access points: at an intersection with US 340 near Front Royal, at an interchange with US 250 near Interstate 64, at an interchange with US 211 in Thornton Gap and US 33 in Swift Run Gap. Using the Skyline Drive requires paying an entrance fee. We park our car at the Hawksbill Gap parking area at mile 45.6.



GPS Coordinates:

Latitude: N 38 33.370

Longitude: W 78 23.199

