

150 - Rocky Mountain and Brown Mountain

On this hike we visit two peaks of the Shenandoah National Park: the Rocky Mountain and the Brown Mountain. After visiting these two peaks we descend to the park's biggest stream: the Big Run. This is one of the longer and more remote hikes that you can do in Shenandoah.

- At the Brown Mountain Overlook (1) access the trail through the opening in the stone wall. The trail starts descending.
- We reach a fork (2) where a trail joins from the left. Here we continue straight on on the Brown Mountain Trail, which is clearly indicated with a post and blue blazes.
- We reach the Rocky Mountain (3) and continue the Brown Mountain Trail towards the Brown Mountain. To reach the summit, leave the main trail and go the left on a short trail (4).
- After the Brown Mountain we continue on the trail and start a long descent until we cross the Big Run stream via a bridge (5). Just behind it we reach the Big Run Portail Trail, where we turn left.
- We now follow yellow blazes on this level trail and cross the stream four times until further on we reach a junction with a signpost (6) indicating the Rocky Mountain Run Trail. We enter that trail by turning left.
- We now follow blue blazes again. The Rocky Mountain Run Trail initially is level but further on ascends again and gets steeper, with zigzag curves.
- It ends at the fork with the Brown Mountain Trail that we already passed before (2) and turn right, for another 130 meters of ascent, back to the Brown Mountain Overlook (1).

Fact Sheet

Duration: 5:00 hrs.
 Distance: 15.5 km.
 Route type: Circular route
 Path type: Trails
 Marking: Blue and yellow blazes
 Total difference in altitude: 725 m.
 Highest point: 867 m.
 Difficulty: Medium (5/15)



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. Just north of Mile 76.9 we park at the Brown Mountain Overlook.



GPS Coordinates:

Latitude: N 38 17.557

Longitude: W 78 39.482



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