

## **VIRGINIA**

### **Shenandoah Valley & Virginia Highlands**

**17. Skyline Drive/Shenandoah National Park** - One of the most beautiful, and historic regions traverses some of the highest portions along the crest of the scenic Blue Ridge Mountains for 105 miles. Seventy-two overlooks provide views of the Shenandoah River Valley to the west and the Piedmont to the east. Closest entry points are from Route 340 at Front Royal, Va. or from Route 211 at Thornton Gap near Luray, Va. Other entrance points are from US 33 at Swift Run Gap and the southern terminus at Rockfish Gap from US 250 at its intersection with I-64 near Waynesboro. Points of interest include; White Oak Canyon Trail, Stony Man Summit, Big Meadows, and Dark Hollow Falls. In spring the fragrance of azaleas, dogwoods, redbud, and mountain laurel fill the air. In fall the colors blaze in many shades of red and yellow from oak and maple trees. The park is filled with wildlife year round. Daily fee \$5 per vehicle. Or free with annual pass. Tel# 540-999-3500 or 2266.

<http://www.nps.gov/shen/home.htm>

**18. Stony Man Trail**, Shenandoah National Park - Stony Man Trail from Skyland is an easy trail to the summit of Stony Man Mountain from which hikers and photographers are greeted by a splendid view of the Blue Ridge and the Shenandoah Valley.

[http://www.nps.gov/shen/PDF%20documents/Maps/Road\\_and\\_Trail/Skyland\\_area.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/shen/PDF%20documents/Maps/Road_and_Trail/Skyland_area.pdf)

**19. Dark Hollow Falls**, Shenandoah National Park - The Dark Hollow Falls trail is difficult, but rewarding. The waterfall is perhaps 40 feet high and it is best in the spring and early summer when the water level is high. You can photograph from both sides of the canyon and can even hike behind the falls.

[http://www.waterfalls-guide.com/va\\_dark\\_hollow\\_falls.htm](http://www.waterfalls-guide.com/va_dark_hollow_falls.htm)

**20. White Oak Canyon Trail**, Shenandoah National Park - This trail is difficult, but it passes several beautiful waterfalls, some close to 90 feet high. The trail is very long and will take all day going down. Take two cars. Leave one car at the bottom and drive to Skyline Drive in the other. At the end of the hike you can drive back to get the second car. Minimize your equipment. As an alternative, you can hike down to the first falls and return.

[http://www.nps.gov/shen/PDF%20documents/Maps/Road\\_and\\_Trail/Whiteoak\\_Canyon\\_area.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/shen/PDF%20documents/Maps/Road_and_Trail/Whiteoak_Canyon_area.pdf)

**21. Caverns of the Blue Ridge** - Temperatures in caverns are 54 degrees, bring a sweater. Tripods are NOT permitted so bring a monopod and fast (at least 200 ISO) film.

<http://www.scott.k12.va.us/martha2/Mountains.htm>

**21A Skyline Caverns**, Front Royal, Va. near the entrance to Skyline Drive. Tel# 540-635- 4545 or 800-296-4545.

<http://www.skylinecaverns.com/>

**21B Luray Caverns**, see Luray, Va.

<http://www.luraycaverns.com/>

**21C Shenandoah Caverns** 540-477-3115 and Endless Caverns 540-896-2283 near New Market, Va.

[http://www.shenandoahcaverns.com/caverns\\_main.asp](http://www.shenandoahcaverns.com/caverns_main.asp)

**22. Luray, Va.** - Located in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley at the base of Massanutten Mountain, Luray was settled by a German/Swiss group. The town is the home of the famous Luray Caverns with chambers up to 140 foot high. They are the largest and most popular caverns in the east. A "Stalacpipe" Organ produces rich symphonic tones while indirect lighting facilitates photography, (monopod and fast film-see above) and pools provide mirror-like reflections of the mineral formations. Admission fee. Tel# 540-743-6551.

<http://luraypage.com/>

**23. New Market, Virginia** - The quaint town just west of Luray at 1-81 features antique, craft, and collectibles shops and many motels and restaurants. The New Market Battlefield Park commemorates a Confederate victory aided by cadets from VMI. Shenandoah Caverns and Endless Caverns are nearby.

<http://www.newmarketvirginia.com/>

**24. Shenandoah Valley** (tour circling Massanutten Mountain) - The Shenandoah Valley formed by the Shenandoah and James Rivers lies between the Blue Ridge and the Allegheny Mountains and contains some of the more spectacular scenery in the country.

<http://www.shenandoahvalleyweb.com/>

**25. Old Rag Mountain, Virginia** - Get a Shenandoah National Park trail book for this long, challenging climb. There is probably a greater variety of scenery along this trail than any other in the park, beginning with a waterfall

at the bottom. Be prepared for some real rock scrambling. Minimize your equipment.

<http://www.rockclimbing.com/routes/listArea.php?ArealD=3631>

**26. Natural Chimneys Jousting Tournament** - Natural Chimneys

Regional Park is the site of seven massive stone formations called "chimney". One, over 100 feet leans like the Tower of Pisa. The National Jousting Hall of Fame Tournament is held the third Saturday in June while the Natural Chimneys Jousting Tournament is the third Saturday in August.

<http://www.uvrpa.org/index.htm>

**27. Route 50 into West Virginia.** - The history of the US can be found here. George Washington proposed the route as the Northwestern Turnpike, a road through the Virginias to the Ohio River. It traverses horse and cattle ranches, farms, and vineyards; old towns, new towns, big towns and small towns; courthouses, churches, cemeteries, mills, monuments, inns, taverns and museums; and more. . {no specific known web site}

**28. George Washington National Forest and the Jefferson National**

**Forest** - Together they cover 1.8 million acres and go from Winchester in the north to Big Stone Gap near the southwestern tip of Virginia. They cross the Blue Ridge, Massanutten, Shenandoah, and Allegheny mountain ranges into West Virginia. The nearest access point is near Massanutten approximately 90 miles from Washington. The Massanutten Gap Visitor Center can be found on US 211 west of Luray at New Market Gap.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/gwj/>

**29. Blue Ridge Parkway, Virginia & North Carolina** - "America's most scenic drive". The 469 mile Parkway connects the southern terminus of Skyline Drive with The Great Smoky Mountains National Park on the North Carolina - Tennessee border.

<http://www.nps.gov/blri/>