

# Shenandoah National Park

## Backcountry Camping Trip Guide



**Trip Name:** Keyser and Piney

**Description:** Cascading mountain stream, small waterfalls, wooded ridgetop

**Entry:** Keyser Run Boundary (North District; East side; Route # 614)

**Exit:** Keyser Run Boundary (North District; East side; Route # 614)

**Map(s):** PATC # 9 North District

**Level:** Experienced

**Total Length:** 13 miles

---

### Day One

Campsite: Pole Bridge Link Trail - backcountry

5.1 to 5.7 miles

Park on the boundary off of State Route 614.

Hike up Keyser Run Fire Road 1.2 miles.

Turn left onto Hull School Trail and hike 0.9 mile.

Turn right, hiking up Piney Branch Trail 3 miles.

Turn right onto Pole Bridge Link Trail, 0 to 0.6 mile.

Camp along Pole Bridge Link Trail.

---

### Day Two

7.7 to 8.3 miles

Return to Piney Branch Trail by hiking up to 0.6 mile.

Turn right to continue going up Piney Branch Trail another 1.4 miles.

Turn left onto the Appalachian Trail (AT) and hike 0.5 mile.

Turn left onto the service road and hike a short distance.

Turn right onto Piney Ridge Trail, hiking 3.3 miles.

Turn right onto Piney Branch Trail and hike 0.4 mile.

Turn left onto Hull School Trail, hiking 0.9 mile.

Turn right onto Keyser Run Fire Road and hike 1.2 miles to return to vehicle.

---

### Notes

Give yourself plenty of time to find a campsite along Pole Bridge Link Trail, especially when the vegetation is lush (it's much easier in the winter).

You may hike this route in the other direction, of course, if you would prefer to start with the longer day and end with a short day.

There are several stream crossings on Piney Branch Trail which may be challenging when the water is up.

---

### Options

In the winter or after heavy rains you may wish to hike up Keyser Run Fire Road rather than Piney Branch Trail. (This avoids the several stream crossings on Piney Branch.) Camp on Pole Bridge Link Trail and hike on day two as written. You will have one stream crossing near the end of your trip, but you won't be far from your vehicle.

---