

Directions for the November 2025 Backpacking Trip

Use with AT trail Map 7 (annotated copies available Friday night)

IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT BLACKBURN TRAIL CENTER ACCESS

There is very little (and tight) parking at Blackburn Trail Center so we should only plan to keep 2-3 vehicles there overnight, just enough to shuttle drivers to start of long and short hikes. The hill leading to the trail center should only be attempted in four-wheel drive vehicles with good ground clearance. It is a narrow dirt road that is usually full of deep ruts cause by wheels spinning. In 2014 and again in 2019 we hiked out of camp about 1.5 miles and met the cars at the bottom of the hill.

Shed to Antietam Creek Campsite, 17779 Canal Rd, Sharpsburg, MD, 21782; 1 hour 30 min, 82 miles,

1. Take I-83 south to I-695 W. Exit onto I-70 W towards Frederick. Near Frederick take exit #52 for US-15S and US-340W. Continue to follow US-340 towards Harpers Ferry.
2. About 1/4 mile before crossing the Potomac towards Harpers Ferry and past MD-67 take the first left onto Valley Rd.
3. In about 300 feet turn left on Keep Tryst Rd for 0.2 mi.
4. Turn right onto Sandy Hook Road for 1.6 mi following the Potomac west and under US-340.
5. Sandy Hook Road turns slightly right and becomes Harpers Ferry Road, go 8.5 mi.
6. Turn left onto Canal Rd, go about 0.4 miles
7. Campsites will be on the left between the canal along side the road and the Potomac River. The closet site is #01. The rest room building is between sites #6 and #7. We have reserved sites #10-14. Park along Canal Road and walk to the sites with your gear.

Note: we could easily have fit in 3 sites but they have a max of 8 persons per site. These sites must now be reserved.

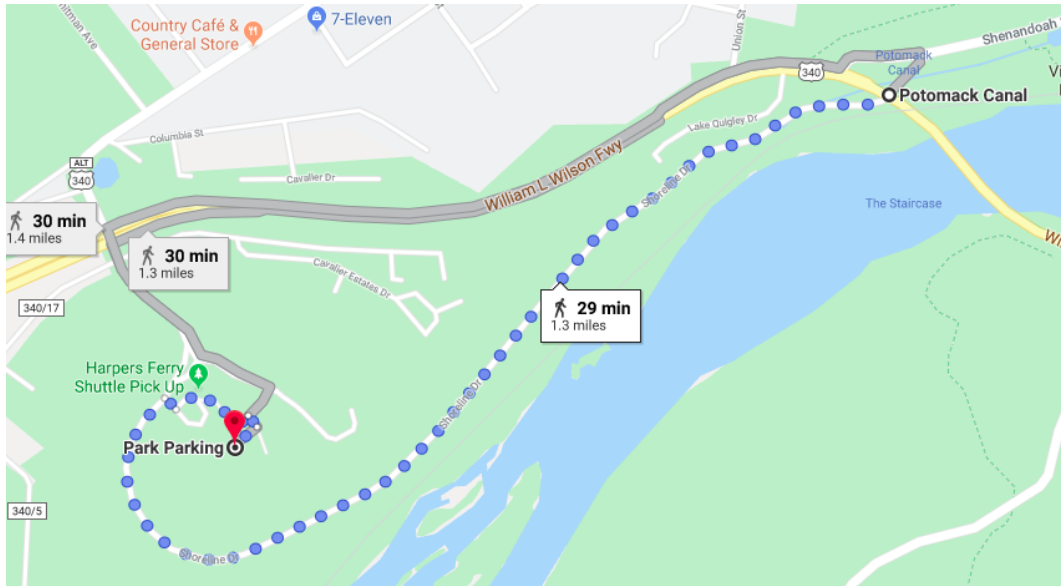
Antietam Creek Campsite to Start of Long Hike (15 miles, 31 minutes)

We will start from the Park Parking lot off US-340 on Shoreline Drive. Type "Visitor Center Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, Shoreline Drive, Harpers Ferry, WV" into Google Maps. Please bring your National Park Pass if you have one. You should be able to park for free with your pass.

1. Reverse your Friday night route back to US-340.
2. Turn left, West, on US-340 towards Harpers Ferry from Valley Road.
3. Drive 3.6 miles crossing both the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers. See detailed map below.
4. Turn left onto Shoreline Drive and follow it to the parking lot. Go to the far end of the parking lot closest to the river and assemble with the rest of the hikers ready to hike. We will hike the trail along the Shenandoah back to the US-340 bridge crossing the river as shown by the blue dots below. The trail leaves from the center of parking lot #3.

These are the recommended routes. It is the responsibility of all drivers to select a route and familiarize themselves with their route ahead of time.

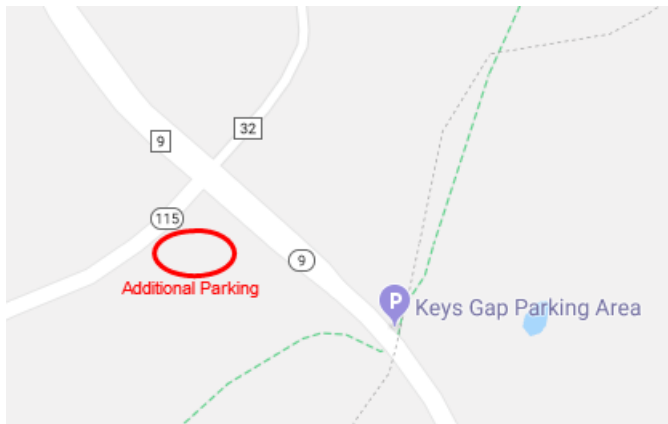
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Antietam Creek Campsite to Start of Short Hike (18 miles, 35 minutes)

We will start the short hike from the intersection of Charles Town Pike, Route 9, and the AT. Type “Keys Gap Parking Area” into Google Maps.

1. Reverse your Friday night route back to US-340.
2. Turn left, West, on US-340 towards Harpers Ferry from Valley Road.
3. Drive 1.9 miles crossing only the Potomac and NOT the Shenandoah River.
4. Turn left onto Chestnut Hill Road, WV32 (or CR32) for 4.3 miles.
5. Turn left onto Hwy 9 towards Keyes Gap, 0.2 miles.
6. Park in the Keys Gap Parking Area or on the southside of the previous intersection. See detailed map below.



Antietam Creek Campsite to Blackburn Trail Center (26 miles, 51 minutes)

Anyone coming directly to the Blackburn Trail Center should also use this route from US-340.

1. Reverse your Friday night route back to US-340.
2. Turn left, West, on US-340 towards Harpers Ferry from Valley Road.
3. Drive 0.9 miles crossing only the Potomac and NOT the Shenandoah River.

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4. Turn left on Harpers Ferry Road, State Rte 671, for 7.5 miles
5. Make a slight left onto VA-9 E for 0.9 miles
6. Turn right onto Cider Mill Rd, State Rte 751, 1.5 mi
7. Turn right onto Woodgrove Rd, State Rte 719, 2.0 mi
8. Turn right onto Appalachian Trail Rd, State Rte 713, 1.0 mi
9. **Arrive shuttle Parking:** (see detailed map below) 39.18171, -77.77969. After passing Southern Cross Lane the road makes a sharp right. Shortly after that there will be an intersection where a road Ys to the right and a driveway is on your left. Park along the road in this area and wait for the Troop.
10. **Blackburn Center**, is another 1.3 miles up Appalachian Trail Road N39 11.098 W77 47.741

Note: there is very little (and tight) parking at Blackburn Trail Center so we should only plan to keep 1-2 vehicles there overnight.

Start of Long Hike to Blackburn Trail Center, (17 miles, 36 minutes)

Type "Blackburn Trail Center" into Google Maps. Two alternatives, the first is easier.

First alternative:

1. Exit parking area and turn right onto US 340 towards Harpers Ferry crossing the Shenandoah River, 2.7 mi
2. Turn right onto Sate Rte 671 at gas station, 7.5 mi
3. Slight left onto VA-9E, 0.9 mi
4. Turn right onto Cider Mill Rd, State Rte 751, 1.5 mi
5. Turn right onto Woodgrove Rd, State Rte 719, 2.0 mi
6. Turn right onto Appalachian Trail Rd, State Rte 713, 1.0 mi
7. **Arrive shuttle Parking:** (see detailed map below) 39.18171, -77.77969. After passing Southern Cross Lane the road makes a sharp right. Shortly after that there will be an intersection where a road Ys to the right and a driveway is on your left. Park along the road in this area and wait for the Troop.
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Second alternative taking you past the short hike put in:

1. Exit parking area and turn right onto US 340 towards Harpers Ferry crossing the Shenandoah River, 1.6 mi
2. Make a hairpin turn to the right onto Chestnut Hill Rd, WV32 (or CR32) for 4.3 miles.
3. Turn left onto Hwy 9 towards Keyes Gap, 0.2 miles.
4. Continue with the next set of directions below, Start of Short Hike to Blackburn Trail Center.

Start of Short Hike to Blackburn Trail Center, 34899 Appalachian Trail Rd, Round Hill, VA 20141 (9.7 miles, 20 minutes)

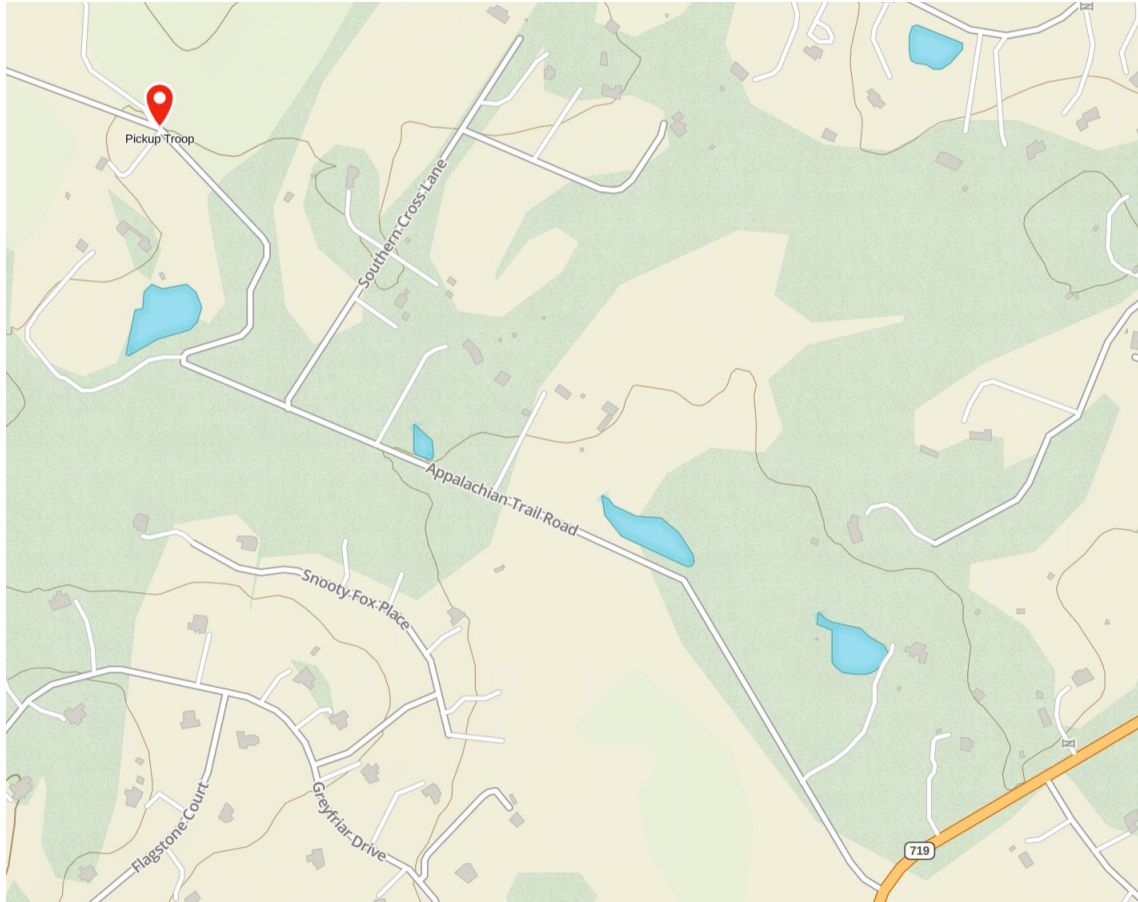
Type "Blackburn Trail Center" into Google Maps. Be cautious these roads were not in good shape the last time we drove them.

1. Drive southeast on VA-9 towards Shady Lane, 4.0 mi
2. Turn right onto Cider Mill Rd, State Rte 751, 1.5 mi
3. Turn right onto Woodgrove Rd, State Rte 719, 2.0 mi
4. Turn right onto Appalachian Trail Rd, State Rte 713, 1.0 mi

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5. **Arrive shuttle Parking:** (see detailed map below) 39.18171, -77.77969. After passing Southern Cross Lane the road makes a sharp right. Shortly after that there will be an intersection where a road Ys to the right and a driveway is on your left. Park along the road in this area and wait for the Troop.
6. **Blackburn Center,** is another 1.3 miles up Appalachian Trail Road N39 11.098 W77 47.741



Hospital: Jefferson Medical Center – WVU Medicine, 300 S Preston St, Ranson, WV 25438, 304-728-1600; 18 miles, 29 minutes from Blackburn Trail Center

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