

Description: This is a pretty strenuous 7.5 mile circuit but will be worth every ounce of effort. It is probably the second most popular hike in the entire SNP with Old Rag holding the # 1 spot. While some prefer to hike it in the spring when the falls are at their most powerful I prefer to do it in the fall when the colors are most intense. Still others prefer to hike this loop in the winter when the falls are in suspended animation.

Directions from Sperryville on US 211 heading west:

1. At Sperryville turn left onto U.S. 522 (Main St.).
2. Turn right onto SR 231. Travel 10 miles to Etlan, VA.
3. Turn right onto SR 643. Travel 4 miles.
4. Turn right onto SR 600 North (Berry Hollow Rd.). Travel 3.6 miles.
5. After crossing Cedar Run, turn left into the parking lot. The kiosk is usually manned to collect a \$4 - \$6 fee.

Trail Notes: From the kiosk, follow blue-blazed White Oak Canyon Trail. Cross Cedar Run on a bridge. Pass blue-blazed Cedar Run Trail on the left and then Cedar Run-White Oak Canyon Link Trail also on the left.

Proceed to slowly switchback up the canyon taking in the views of the magnificent falls. You probably wouldn't want to do this portion quickly anyhow. At 2.7 miles from the start, come to a concrete post with no markings. This trail leads to the base of #1 Falls, a spot missed by many but worth the extra time to explore.

Return to the main trail and switchback up to the top of #1 Falls for a different perspective. At about 3 miles cross a small bridge and turn left onto yellow-blazed Skyland-Big Meadows Horse Trail. You will still be gaining elevation along this old forest road but at a much more gradual rate.

In about 1.5 miles the fire road will swing right. Stay on the horse trail almost to the Cedar Run parking lot on Skyline Dr. Turn sharply left on the blue-blazed Cedar Run Trail.

Over the next 2.4 miles you will pass several rapids, water falls and, about halfway down, Halfmile Cliffs. You will cross Cedar run twice. The second time is at the bottom. Watch the blazes as an old woods road continues straight while you have to turn left for that final crossing.

Pass the link trail and White Oak Canyon Trail on your left as you return to the parking lot.