



NATIONAL PARK
VIRGINIA

ARAMARK LODGING, DINING & ACTIVITIES IN SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK - 2009 FACT SHEET

LOCATION Shenandoah National Park is located astride the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia, 90 miles west of Washington, DC.

GETTING THERE **Air Service**

The Park's southern entrances at Rockfish Gap (US 250 / I-64) and Swift Run Gap (US 33) are served by commercial flights from:

- Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport, eight miles north of Charlottesville, VA on Hwy. 29; phone 434-973-8341
- Shenandoah Valley Airport, 18 miles northeast of Staunton, VA or 14 miles south of Harrisonburg, VA on Hwy. 256; phone 540-234-8304
- Dulles International Airport is 1.5 hours east of the junction of US 211 and the Skyline Drive's Thornton Gap Entrance Station, and east of the junction of I-66 and US 340 at Front Royal, VA, the Park's most northern entrance.

Bus Service

Greyhound offers regular bus service to Charlottesville, VA located approximately 30 miles from the southern entrance to the Park at the Swift Run Gap (US 33)

Train Service

Amtrak serves nearby Culpeper, VA which is approximately 35 miles from the eastern entrance to the Park at Thornton Gap; call 800/872-7245 for a list of schedules and directions.

Rental Car Service

Available at the airports and major surrounding cities.

PHONE 800-778-2872 for reservations

WEBSITE www.visitshenandoah.com

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OVERVIEW Established by Congress in 1935, Shenandoah National Park in Virginia's



Blue Ridge Mountains contains over 197,000 acres of land with over 500 miles of trails, including 101 miles of the Appalachian Trail. Shenandoah draws more than 1.5 million visitors every year with its rich history, unique geography and wildlife. The panoramic vistas experienced along the historic Skyline Drive, a designated “National Scenic Byway” and “National Historic Landmark”, are among the area’s most popular attractions. This scenic roadway, built during the Depression, winds 105 miles along the crest of the mountains through the length of the Park, providing vistas of the spectacular landscape to the east and west.

In 2010 Shenandoah National Park will be celebrating it’s 75th Anniversary. Special events and activities are being planned.

LODGING

Shenandoah National Park concessioner ARAMARK offers a range of amenities and comfortable accommodations within the Park. Enjoy breathtaking views of the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Shenandoah Valley with overnight accommodations at:

Skyland Resort (*Mile 41.7 on Skyline Drive*)

Originally named Stony Man Camp, Skyland Resort is on the National Register of Historic Places. Skyland is located at the highest point on Skyline Drive at 3,680 feet, providing visitors with 179 units that range from cabins to spacious rooms and suites. Features include:

- Dining room serving breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Free family-friendly entertainment nightly
- Gift shop
- Children’s playground
- Conference Hall
- Guided ranger programs (check NPS visitor guide *Shenandoah Overlook* or park website – www.nps.gov/shen - for current schedule)
- Horseback rides and pony rides
- Monthly activities and events
- TVs in some rooms, no phones
- Pet friendly rooms available
- Open 5:00pm, April 2 through noon, November 29, 2009
- Season rates vary from \$70 to \$275 per night*

Big Meadows Lodge (*Mile 51.2 on Skyline Drive*)

Big Meadows Lodge, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, features 25 rooms in the main lodge and 72 additional cabins, suites and traditional style rooms. Lodge features include:

- Dining room serving breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Free family-friendly entertainment nightly
- Gift shop
- Pet friendly rooms available
- Massanutten Meeting Room



- Children's playground
- Monthly activities and events
- Guided ranger programs (check NPS visitor guide *Shenandoah Overlook* or park website – www.nps.gov/shen - for current schedule)
- Harry F. Byrd, Sr. Visitor Center nearby
- TVs in some units, no phones
- Open 5:00pm, May 22 through noon, November 8, 2009
- Season rates vary from \$85 to 165 per night*

Lewis Mountain Cabins (*Mile 57.5 on Skyline Drive*)

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Lewis Mountain has 10 historic furnished cabins providing visitors basic amenities including private baths, heat, towels and linen. Features include:

- Sheltered outdoor cooking
- Shower facilities and coin laundry
- Camp store with firewood, ice, gifts and other supplies
- No TVs or phones
- Pet friendly rooms available
- Open April 10 through noon, November 8, 2009
- Seasonal rates vary from \$76 to \$123 per night*

**Rates quoted are for 2008; call (800)778-2872 for updated 2009 prices.*

DINING

Elkwallow Wayside (*Mile 24.1 on Skyline Drive*)

A general store and snack counter that features carry-out food, groceries, gasoline, souvenirs and camping supplies. Open April 9 through 5:30pm, November 8.

Skyland Resort Dining Room (*Mile 41.7 on Skyline Drive*)

The full-service *Pollock Dining Room* features regional fare for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Drinks, a limited bar menu and nightly live entertainment are available in the *Mountain Taproom*. Open 5:00pm, April 2 through noon, November 29.

Big Meadows Wayside (*Mile 51.2 on Skyline Drive*)

Centrally located general store offers full service meals, groceries, camping and hiking supplies, gasoline, and a gift shop. Open March 27 through 5:30pm, November 29.

Big Meadows Lodge Dining Room (*Mile 51.2 on Skyline Drive*)

This full-service restaurant overlooks the scenic Shenandoah Valley. Restaurant fare includes local and regional favorites. Serves breakfast, lunch and dinner from May 22 through noon, November 8.

The New Market Taproom offers drinks and nightly live entertainment.

Loft Mountain Wayside (*Mile 79.5 on Skyline Drive*)

Restaurant with snack counter, gift shop, gasoline, restrooms opens April 23



thru 5:30pm, November 8. Limited menu until May 2. Campstore with hiking supplies, shower and laundry opens May 15 thru 5:30pm November 1.

MEETING/BANQUET FACILITIES

The **Skyland Conference Hall** provides the perfect venue for productive meetings. The historically accurate conference hall can accommodate groups of 20 to 100 and features two magnificent stone chimneys with four fireplaces, restored oak floors, chestnut paneling, French doors and plenty of wide-open space – including two breakout rooms.

The **Massanutten Room** at **Big Meadows Lodge** is ideal for small retreats, family re-unions and social gatherings. This chestnut-paneled room accommodates up to 40 people and provides a comfortable atmosphere for a memorable function.

ACTIVITIES

Hiking – Hikers will enjoy over 500 miles of trails, including 101 miles of the Appalachian Trail that passes through Shenandoah National park. Trails Range in varying degrees of length, difficulty and incline. From leisurely, waterfall-dotted paths or steep, rocky climbs to granite peaks. Shenandoah is a hiker's dream. Most trails are accessed from the historic Skyline Drive. Professionally-guided hiking programs are available throughout the season and offered by ARAMARK.

Horseback Riding – Guided trail rides are a relaxing, scenic way to explore Shenandoah. From April through November, weather permitting, riders depart from the stables at Skyland. Riders must be at least 4'10" to ride horses and weigh less than 250 pounds; pony rides are available for children. Reservations can be made one day in advance by calling 540-999-2210.

Bird Watching – For bird enthusiasts, there are more than 200 species of resident and transient birds known to use the Park. Take a stroll along a trail and see if you can identify the sounds of the resident tufted titmice or Carolina chickadees.

Wildlife & Nature Photography – In the early morning and at dusk numerous white-tailed deer can be seen at Big Meadows and Skyland where they gather to feed. The spring season brings dozens of wildflower species, and the Park's waterfalls make dramatic subjects when they are at their fullest after a heavy rainfall.

Fishing – Catch-and-release recreational fishing is allowed, but special regulations exist for Park streams. Be sure to review the regulations thoroughly. Regulations and an annual listing of streams open to fishing are available at visitor contact stations. A Virginia fishing license is required; five-day licenses are available at Big Meadows Wayside.

Evening Campfire Programs – A well-loved NPS tradition held during the summer months and October (*check NPS visitor guide Shenandoah Overlook or park website – www.nps.gov/shen - for schedule*).



Junior Ranger Programs – Ranger-led education and fun activities for kids ages 7-12 held during the summer months (*check NPS visitor guide Shenandoah Overlook or park website – www.nps.gov/shen - for schedule*). Shenandoah's award-winning Junior Ranger Explorer Notebook provides children age seven and older the opportunity to have fun learning about the park as they work toward becoming Junior Rangers. The Notebook can be purchased at visitor center bookstores for a small fee.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Shenandoah National Park visitors can enjoy a wide range of events and activities. For a complete calendar of events, please visit www.visitshenandoah.com.

One-Day Guided Hiking Programs from Skyland Resort (Tues / Thurs)
Within Shenandoah National Park are a multitude of trails off the main road and footpath that are rarely explored. Each day hike will be to a destination area that is significant because of its natural beauty and/or cultural significance. Waterfalls and wildflower are two environments for which Shenandoah is famous. Meet your guide at Skyland Resort at 9:00am with departure at 9:30am. Anticipated return to Skyland at 4:00pm. April through early November.

Rock Climbing/Rappelling from Skyland Resort (Mon/ Wed/ Fri)
This program is designed to be an introductory through intermediate level program in rock climbing and rappelling with Little Stony Man cliffs providing an unforgettable environment for learning. Includes lunch and all required gear. Meet your guide at Skyland at 9:00am departing 9:30am. Approximate return at 4:00pm.

10th Annual Apple Butter Celebration – Freshly made apple butter, apple candy, apple art and crafts are everywhere at this favorite festival held at Big Meadows Wayside on September 12. Live entertainment scheduled.

Tea with the First Ladies: Lou Hoover and Eleanor Roosevelt – Monthly from May thru September, Big Meadows Lodge serves up a slice of presidential history along with teas and sweet treats prepared from authentic recipes of these former first ladies.

A Walk For Sunshine - Jeff Alt, a talented speaker and award-winning author of *A Walk for Sunshine*, enjoys sharing his 2,160 mile Appalachian Trail adventures with Shenandoah National Park visitors. Jeff uses humor and adventure in a story telling format. His presentations involve music, slides and personal narration. Jeff has been an expert hiking commentator for ESPN's *Inside America's National Parks* and his adventures have been widely featured in media across the country. Held once a month at Big Meadows Lodge May thru August and October. Free.



Eavesdropping On Wildlife - When wildlife talks, nature author/photographer Marlene A. Condon listens! In this narrative/tape recording/photo sheets presentation, Marlene shares the wildlife sights and sounds that she has captured around her home in Crozet, Virginia. Held monthly May through October in the Massanutten Room at Big Meadows Lodge.

Basket Making Workshops – Learn the age-old tradition of basket making at Big Meadows Lodge as a local artisan teaches participants how to make a white oak basket with techniques handed down through the age. Workshops held June through October.

Virginia Wine Tastings - Sample the fine wines of Virginia vineyards at Skyland Resort and Big Meadows Lodge. One Virginia winery featured each week beginning at 3:00pm, May 14 through November 12. A minimal charge of \$10.00pp includes assorted cheeses plus a handcrafted glass to take home. Must be 21 to attend. Check website for specific dates at each property. Call for reservations.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM

Green Thread®

At ARAMARK, we have a deep respect for and commitment to protecting and improving the environment. We work to reduce our environmental footprint while delivering exceptional operational results. We also offer expertise and practical solutions to our clients to help them reduce their environmental impacts. Throughout our company, we develop and implement long-term environmental stewardship programs and policies within the areas of Food Purchasing; Supply Chain; Building Operations; Energy and Water Conservation; Transportation and Waste Management.

MANAGEMENT

ARAMARK Parks and Destinations, a division of ARAMARK Sports and Entertainment, is an authorized concessioner of the National Park Service and has operated the overnight accommodations, food services, gift shops, waysides and stables at Shenandoah National Park since 1972.

ARAMARK Parks and Destinations provides a wide range of professional services, including property management, hospitality services and recreational support to specialty hotels, resorts, national and state parks, national forest service and other tourist destinations throughout the United States. ARAMARK Parks and Destinations seeks to create memorable experiences at destinations by bringing the best in environmental stewardship, sustainable cuisine and interpretive programs to the guests it serves. For more information on ARAMARK Parks and Destinations and each of its properties, visit www.aramarkparksanddestinations.com.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information about Shenandoah National Park, visit www.nps.gov/shen