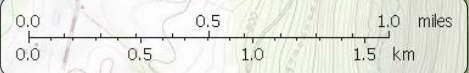


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Loudoun Heights – Keys Gap, VA

Length	Difficulty	Streams	Views	Solitude	Camping
11.8 mls	★	N/A	★	★	★
Hiking Time: 6 hours with 1 hour of breaks Elev. Gain: 1,595 ft Parking: Park at the Keys Gap/Appalachian Trail parking area on VA 9. 39.26180, -77.76241					

[Click Here For Detailed Location](#)



Following the Appalachian Trail north from Keys Gap this hike features the beautiful Loudoun Heights overlook of Harpers Ferry and Potomac River. There is also a nice vista from a utility clear-cut with Virginia to the east and West Virginia to the west. For those making this a backpack, there are two good campsites between the clear-cut and Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. The one downside to this ridge walk is the extremely rocky section of Appalachian Trail just south of Harpers Ferry National Park.

- ▶ **Mile 0.0** - From the parking area at Keys Gap pass the information kiosk and turn left/north on the Appalachian Trail (A.T.). The trail is wide and flat at this point and an easy walk. But don't get used to this, most of the trail all the way to the blue blazed Loudoun Heights Trail is rocky.
- ▶ **Mile 0.4** - The trail splits with an old section of the A.T. going left. Stay right on the white blazed A.T. descending and traversing the eastern side of the ridge. Pass 3 campsites on the right side of the trail from this point to the utility clear-cut. These campsites *should not be used*, as there is no camping allowed between the parking area at Keys Gap and the utility clear-cut at mile 1.4.
- ▶ **Mile 1.4** - Pass through the utility clear-cut. There is a good view to the east of Virginia, and to the west of West Virginia. The A.T. follows the border of VA/WV for the majority of the hike. After crossing the clear-cut the trail ascends the ridge.
- ▶ **Mile 2.0** - Pass the first of two good campsites. This is the largest campsite with a fire ring and can accommodate 3 tents. From this point the trail becomes significantly more rocky.
- ▶ **Mile 2.9** - Arrive at a second campsite just before the A.T. passes through a small saddle.
- ▶ **Mile 3.6** - Pass a sign designating that the A.T. is now entering the Harpers Ferry National Park. This is the rockiest section of the hike, and the A.T. descends along the ridge for another 0.4 miles to the intersection of the Loudoun Heights Trail.
- ▶ **Mile 4.0** - At the intersection the white blazed A.T. turns left/west downhill towards the ATC Visitors Center. Turn left downhill. This section of the blue blazed trail is closed as of 2018.
- ▶ **Mile 4.25** - Turn right on the orange blazed trail as it climbs to the ridge and intersection with the blue blazed trail
- ▶ **Mile 5.25** - Turn left on the blue blazed Loudoun Heights Trail north passing a view of the Potomac River at a power line clear-cut. The trail then descends to the right and passes around the mountain.
- ▶ **Mile 5.9** - Arrive at Loudoun Heights Overlook where the Loudoun Heights Trail ends. The overlook has beautiful views of Harpers Ferry and Maryland Heights. Now start your return by retracing your steps.
- ▶ **Mile 11.8** - Arrive back at Keys Gap and VA 9.