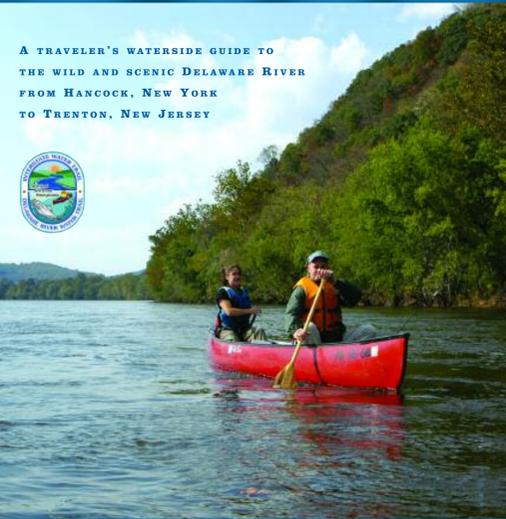


DELAWARE RIVER WATER TRAIL



HOW TO USE THE GUIDE & MAPS

The Delaware River Water Trail Guide provides boaters with useful information to plan safe, environmentally friendly outings on the 200 miles of the non-tidal river from Hancock, New York to the Falls at Trenton, New Jersey. Recreational users such as anglers and more will also find the guide useful for planning trips on or along the river.

This guide coincides with the Delaware River Recreation Maps produced by the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC). The maps are excellent navigational aids that show approximately 5-10 mile stretches of river with detailed river conditions such as location of rapids and falls, channels, islands, bridges, public access points and the local road network. Also included is information about the level of paddling difficulty, and riverside facilities such as restrooms, parking, and picnic areas. The river recreation maps are available through the DRBC at www.state.nj.us/drbc/drbc.htm

Although the authors and publisher of this Delaware River Water Trail Guide have made a considerable effort to provide accurate information, they take no responsibility for any errors or omissions and disclaim any liability for accident, loss, injury, inconvenience or other damage that may be sustained by anyone using the information contained herein. Any outdoor recreation can be potentially hazardous, and river recreation is no exception. Weather and water conditions can change quickly, and it is up to each boater or other recreational user to learn the proper skills, assume responsibility for his/her own actions and safety, and exercise sound judgment. The ultimate responsibility for safety lies solely with the individual.

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WELCOME TO THE WATER TRAIL!

The Delaware River offers some of the finest and most accessible recreational opportunities in the northeastern United States. Popular activities include boating, fishing, swimming, camping, hunting, hiking, bird watching, sightseeing along state-designated scenic highways, and cycling along canal towpaths and bike routes.

It is no wonder that much of the Delaware River makes a great water trail. Non-profit environmental and recreational organizations, local residents and businesses, and federal, state and local governments have joined in a cooperative effort to guide and enhance river access opportunities through the development of a water trail system. This system includes uniform signage, maps, a trail guide and an interactive web site.

There are more than 150 designated water trails throughout the United States connecting people to water resources. Water trails are boat routes suitable for canoes, kayaks and small motorized watercraft. Like conventional trails, water trails are recreational corridors between specific locations. The Delaware River Water Trail will include guided access points and day use and/or camping sites for the boating public. It will provide one-stop trip planning information that considers the river as a whole system, where and how to navigate it safely and appropriately, and ways to help protect its resources.

There are a few tributary streams to the Delaware River that are already designated water trails. These include the 75-mile Lehigh River Water Trail and 142-mile Schuylkill River Water Trail. Information on these trails is available on the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission web site (www.fish.state.pa.us).



Delaware River Greenway Partnership (DRGP) is the manager and one of the sponsors of the Delaware River Water Trail project. The mission of the DRGP is to promote the public and private stewardship of a regional corridor of natural, historic, cultural, scenic and recreational resources along the Delaware River and its tributaries, and to acknowledge the integrity of the nationally recognized Delaware River system through a public/private partnership. To find out more about the water trail and join the DRGP, go to www.drgrp.org/

Key Project Sponsors:

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Delaware River Basin Commission
National Park Service, Department of the Interior:
Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River
Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor
Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program
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National Canoe Safety Patrol
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
New York Department of Environmental Conservation
Pennsylvania Environmental Education Center
Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers
Upper Delaware Council
Wildlands Conservancy

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A TRAVELER'S WATERSIDE GUIDE TO THE WILD AND SCENIC DELAWARE RIVER FROM HANCOCK, NEW YORK TO TRENTON, NEW JERSEY



SHARING THE RIVER

The Delaware River attracts many different types of recreational users, including canoeists and kayakers, motor boaters, jet skiers, sight-seers, swimmers and tubers. It is important that all recreational users understand and abide by a few simple guidelines for on-the-water conduct.

The basic principles for river etiquette are:

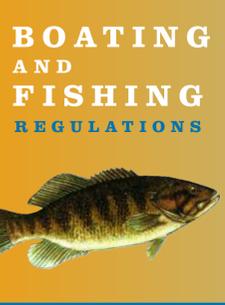
- Know the boundaries of public and private lands. Respect public as well as private property – use "Leave No Trace" principles. "Leave No Trace" is a nationally recognized outdoor skills and ethics awareness program (www.lnt.org).
- Understand the river before setting out on an unfamiliar section. Follow state-specific boating regulations, and safety guidelines so as not to endanger other river users or yourself.
- Respect wildlife.
- Be courteous and respectful of other river users. Respect their SPACE, PRIVACY, and SOLITUDE while on the river, in camp, on hikes and at boat ramps. Respect anglers' water – boaters should look ahead for anglers, both on the shore and in the water, and give them a wide berth, passing by quietly.

Much of the Delaware River has a National Wild & Scenic Rivers designation. Almost all of the shoreline along the Upper and Lower sections of the Delaware River and many of the islands are privately owned, although not always posted as such. Please be considerate of the privacy and rights of landowners and do not enter private land unless you have prior permission from the property owner.

If you plan to camp overnight, plan ahead. Reservations may be necessary for both public and privately owned campgrounds. Courtesy is of utmost importance. Noise carries across the water much louder than on land.

"Take only pictures. Leave only footprints."

Always collect your trash before you depart from a stop, even biodegradable items such as apple cores and orange peels. Trash bags should always be part of your gear. Make it a habit to pick up an extra bit of litter on each river trip. Individual actions will lead to a cleaner river and shoreline.



BOATING AND FISHING REGULATIONS

- Reciprocal license agreements apply to interstate waters for boating and fishing.
- A valid fishing license is needed for the state where you intend to fish, when fishing from shore or wading off shore.
- Be sure to obtain specific boating and fishing regulations from the appropriate state agency sources.
- Valid boat and personal watercraft registration is required as in any waterway.

You can find out more about Pennsylvania requirements through the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. You can find out about New Jersey requirements through the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Parks & Forestry and Division of Fish and Wildlife, and New Jersey Motor Vehicles Commission. You can find out more about New York requirements through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; through New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; and through New York State Department of Motor Vehicles.

THE DELAWARE RIVER



RIVER SAFETY

The Delaware River is a great place to relax and enjoy nature, but as with many outdoor activities there are inherent risks that can lead to injury or even death. River enthusiasts bear personal responsibility for their own safety. Always remember the ever-changing nature of the river. Pay close attention to weather conditions. Use common sense, caution, good planning and proper equipment to greatly reduce risks.

A wealth of information is available on river safety issues and techniques. One of the best ways to learn about safety and improve skills is to join a local paddling or boating club. Experienced boaters are eager to share their knowledge and demonstrate efficient, safety-minded techniques and skills. There are also some excellent books and videos available. The American Canoe Association offers paddling courses for all skill levels for both canoe and kayak, and the National Canoe Safety Patrol offers river safety and rescue courses. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary offers similar programs for motor boaters.

The following tips will help ensure safe and enjoyable river trips:

BE PREPARED-WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET

Never enter the river without wearing a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) or lifejacket. Always carry some form of personal identification and notation of medical conditions and allergies. Always carry water and a first-aid kit, and an extra paddle if you are in a canoe or kayak. In cool weather, dress accordingly and bring at least a complete change of warm clothing in a waterproof bag. In warmer weather take along insect repellent and sun block. Plan your trip carefully and seek out the latest information on ever changing river conditions. Let someone know what your plans are and when you expect to be finished. Always wear protective footwear. Watch for broken glass underfoot, particularly near accesses.

CONSIDER YOUR SKILL LEVEL

The Delaware River's flat water stretches are perfect for beginners. Class I & II rapids are appropriate for more experienced paddlers. Class II stretches of this river are often considered "technical," which refers to the degree of boat-handling skill required to navigate rocks and boulders in swiftly moving current. Be aware that class designations are relative to changes in water levels. Make sure your paddling adventures are in sync with your skill level.

IN AN EMERGENCY

Save People First! Equipment can be salvaged later. Even a swamped boat will float. Stay with it. Try to keep hold of your paddles if you are in a canoe or kayak. Hold on to the upstream end of the boat to avoid getting caught between the boat and a rock. Float on your back, with your feet pointing downstream near the surface to avoid foot entrapment in the rocks. Swim over to the riverbank. If possible, retrieve your boat in safe, calm water. Never stand up in the mainstream or current. In the event of an emergency, call 911 or local authorities.

SWIMMING AND WADING

Hot summer days invite river users to cool off. Be aware that most drownings on the river have been swimming-related. Always keep your PFD or lifejacket on. Swift currents, sudden drop-offs, and slippery rocks can cause unexpected and serious injuries. Don't wade in water above your knees in a strong current. You can be knocked over or your foot could be caught between rocks. If you're swimming in a current, keep your feet downstream and elevated toward the surface. Then you can see what's ahead of you and can use your feet to ward off some of the rocks.

TRAVEL SMART

Don't travel alone. Let someone know your trip plans.

RIVER HAZARDS

COLD
Even during June and September, when the weather seems mild, hypothermia can be a problem for the unprepared river traveler. Wear synthetic fleece or wool, or special gear (i.e., wet suits or dry suits) for thermal protection. At the very least, bring along a complete change of clothing in a dry-bag or double-bag your clothes with black plastic trash bags. Tie gear securely to the boat.

STRAINERS

Strainers are fallen trees or debris piles that block all or a portion of the river. Like a kitchen strainer, a river strainer lets water through, but not you or your boat. Avoid strainers at all costs!

Strainers commonly occur along the banks of the river where one or more trees have fallen into the water but they may be found anywhere along the river. In some cases a strainer will block the entire channel. Be alert for strainers, especially where the river narrows, and around sharp bends where strainers may loom with little time to react.



A special kind of strainer called an Eel Weir can be found in the Upper Delaware. These are V-shaped rock walls in the channels, pointing downstream. Besides catching eels they can also trap and swamp your boat. Watch for the posted signs and avoid them.

If you do get caught by a strainer, keep calm. Lean to the downstream side, even though that means leaning towards the tree or obstacle. If in a canoe, make sure you coordinate your moves with each other. Don't try to swim – you could be crushed under the canoe.

BRIDGES

Bridge piers are common collecting points for strainers. Because of the strong current, avoid the piers themselves and give the surrounding area a wide berth, as parts of the piers may extend far under the water. Anticipate your approach from a far distance to stay clear of the piers.

UPPER DELAWARE RIVER

The Upper Delaware is a mountain river known for its trout fishing waters, stunning scenery, and whitewater paddling. It is one of the most popular paddling destinations in the northeastern United States. River travelers are treated to views of dramatic cliffs and rock formations such as Hawks Nest and Elephant Rocks. On any given day, one can expect to see bald eagles, osprey, and even the occasional deer. Bear sightings are extremely rare.

Much of the Upper Delaware is part of the Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River (Upper Delaware S&RR), a unit of the National Park System. The Upper Delaware S&RR includes 73 miles of the river along the New York-Pennsylvania border, from Hancock, New York to Sparrowbush, New York. Despite the federal designation, most of the land along the river is privately owned. More than a dozen public access points and nearly as many private accesses provide ample opportunity for canoeing, kayaking, rafting, tubing, and fishing. Canoes, kayaks and tubes are the most popular form of recreation. Water craft are available to rent from many commercial outfitters. The Upper Delaware S&RR prohibits personal water craft (e.g., jet-skis) on the river within its boundaries. Note: Jet skis are permitted between the Upper Delaware and Delaware Water Gap and are launched from the West End beach in Port Jervis.

Along your journey, you will discover outstanding historic places and structures, including remnants of a once-busy canal and the Delaware Aqueduct, the nation's oldest existing wire cable suspension bridge. From the river, you will see the Delaware Aqueduct as you pass by the Village of Lackawaxen, Pennsylvania, which also features the Zane Grey Museum, once home of the most famous novelist of the American West. The Lackawaxen River, largest tributary to the Upper Delaware River, joins at the upstream end of the village. Those traveling by car on Route 97, which parallels the river, are treated to spectacular views of the river at Hawks Nest.



Although the Upper Delaware is known for its whitewater and draws heavy traffic during warm weather months, the first 30 miles below Hancock feature a series of shallow riffles and pools. Upstream reservoir releases produce cold water temperatures, even in the middle of summer.

There are several major rapids, including Skinners Falls, located 5 miles above Narrowsburg, New York. It is perhaps the most famous along the entire length of the Delaware, although not necessarily the most difficult to navigate. Nevertheless, paddlers should scout this and other rapids from shore before attempting passage. Beginners can also consider carrying their boats around Skinners Falls. From Narrowsburg to Port Jervis and Matamoras there are also numerous rapids or rifts including Ten Mile, Shohola, and Mongaup, to name a few. The Shohola Rift and Mongaup Falls are perhaps the most challenging to safely navigate, requiring paddling skills and river reading experience.

The Upper Delaware may be known as a whitewater destination but there are several long stretches of quiet pools known as eddies. Long Eddy, Quicks Eddy, Handsome Eddy and Pond Eddy are all deep, slow moving stretches of the river.

Recreational users can call the National Park Service's River Conditions Information Line at 845-252-7100 to hear reports of temperatures, river height, and safety conditions. The information is updated daily during the paddling season. For more information visit www.nps.gov/upde.

LEGEND

- Bicycle Trail
- Boat Launch
- Campground
- Canoe Launch
- Fishing
- Hiking
- Museum
- Parking
- Picnic Area
- Point of Interest
- Swimming
- Telephone
- Visitor Information
- Public Park Land
- Roads

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