



INDIANA CANOEING

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Interest in canoeing and in Indiana's rivers has steadily increased during the past several years. The Department of Natural Resources receives thousands of inquiries about canoeing annually and, in response, has prepared this brochure to help answer questions.

The best information on canoeing in Indiana can be found in the 1987 revision of the Indiana Canoeing Guide, which is available for \$4.00 (\$3.81 + .19 tax) from the Department of Natural Resources, 616 State Office Building, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204 (just send a note requesting the canoeing guide and a check payable to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources). The guide describes 26 canoeing trails on about 1,600 miles of rivers and contains a map, recommended access points and shuttle routes, and mileages for each trail, along with information about canoeing techniques, trip planning, and proper river use.

Some of the information in the canoeing guide has been included in this brochure to help you.

HAVE A SAFE TRIP

1. Never canoe on flooded streams! They are extremely dangerous due to their strong currents and debris.
2. Check river conditions and weather forecasts before beginning a trip.
3. Life jackets are required by Indiana law and should be worn by all canoeists.
4. Wear shoes and take an extra change of clothing in a waterproof container.
5. On long trips, take food and plenty of fresh water and protect yourself from the sun.

Inexperienced canoeists should practice basic strokes and learn to work together in calm water prior to starting a trip. Remember that the paddler in the bow (front) of the canoe has a better view of upcoming obstacles and can better plan the route of the canoe, and the paddler in the stern (rear) of the canoe should learn to follow the bowman. No one misses all the rocks all the time, though. When your canoe hits a rock (or a downed tree) lean downstream so water does not fill the canoe and be careful when stepping out of your canoe to dislodge it since you may cause the canoe to upset or find yourself in water over your head.

Learning to "read" a river will also help you to better enjoy your trip. The following guidelines generally apply to Indiana's rivers. (1) Water moves more swiftly farther away from river banks and the bottom where the forces of friction come into play. (2) A river carries a relatively uniform amount of water regardless of depth or width, meaning water will move much faster where a river is shallow or narrow than where it is deep or wide. (3) When a river bends, the water attempts to continue in a straight line, causing the river to move more swiftly on the outside of the curve than on the inside. (4) An eddy in a river is where the water is either not moving or even moving slightly upstream; eddies are found along the bank at the inside of a bend or behind obstructions such as big rocks. (5) Waves are characteristic of moving water colliding with water which is moving more slowly; consequently, a calm water spot in the midst of turbulence generally indicates a submerged rock, and a turbulent water area in the midst of quiet water also usually indicates a submerged rock. (6) Water follows the path of least resistance (usually identified by a "v" in the river; looking down river, enter the wide part of a "v" and go straight into the point (the waves below the point of the "v" are generally standing waves and do not usually hide rocks). (7) Rocks in quiet water often give no warning at all; the bowman must be alert to avoid these rocks. (8) Finally, don't try to overpower the river—let the water do the work whenever possible.

Indiana rivers have one hazard which is more common than all others combined — trees. A river can exert several tons of force on a canoe pinned against a tree, literally wrapping the canoe around the tree. A canoe can also become pinned under a logjam or a downed tree, and paddlers can become trapped. Downed or hanging trees in swift water (such as on the outside of a bend) are referred to as "strainers" because their branches "strain" the river, trapping canoes and canoeists along with other debris. Learn to avoid strainers by learning how to draw your canoe across the river away from them.

If you "dump" or "swamp" your canoe, stay with it unless you judge that doing so will endanger you. If you can stay with your canoe, you can guide it into quiet water; stay at the upstream end of the canoe so if the canoe becomes pinned, you do not. If possible, hold onto your paddle, you will need it. Do not try to swim in strong current—float in

your life jacket, on your back, with your toes above the water and pointed downstream. If the water is cold, try to get out of the water and dried off as quickly as possible to prevent hypothermia.

If someone else's canoe dumps or swamps, try first to assist the paddlers then collect their equipment. If the water is cold, get the paddlers out of the water, dry them, and warm them immediately. Keep calm and encourage the paddlers to do likewise. Remember to give canoeists ahead of you the opportunity to get through the fast water before you, or you all may end up dumping.

The Department of Natural Resources is responsible for meeting the recreation needs of Indiana's citizens and for ensuring the wise use and proper protection of the state's natural resources. **YOUR HELP IS NEEDED—PLEASE KEEP OUR RIVERS CLEAN AND RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF LAND-OWNERS ALONG OUR RIVERS.**

Take along waterproof garbage bags to remove the litter you take in, as well as to pick-up after others who have been less considerate. Many groups around the state conduct river clean-up days for large scale litter removal, particularly during June—American Rivers Month. If you would like more information about river clean-up opportunities (or any other Department of Natural Resources program or facilities), contact the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Public Information, 612 State Office Building, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204 (317/232-4200). With everyone doing their part, Indiana's rivers can retain their natural beauty indefinitely.

Keep in mind that the banks of all rivers should be considered private property. Only a very small part of the river banks in Indiana are in public ownership. You may contact an Indiana conservation officer stationed in a county where you plan to go canoeing for additional information about river use. Conservation officer information is available from the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Law Enforcement, 606 State Office Building, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204 (317/232-4010).

The Department of Natural Resources wishes you very enjoyable fresh air experiences as you float through some of the most natural, scenic, and historical areas in Indiana.

INDIANA CANOE LIVERIES

NORTHERN INDIANA

Chain O'Lakes

Chain O'Lakes State Park
Route #3, Box 196
Albion, IN 46701
219/636-2654
(connecting lakes—no shuttle service)

Elkhart River

Oldfather Canoe Center
607 W. Plymouth Avenue
Goshen, IN 46526
219/533-2295

Kankakee River

Lake County Parks Department
2293 N. Main
Crown Point, IN 46307
219/755-3685
(Deep River when water favorable)

Wapiti Land Recreation
Box 153
Sumava Resorts, IN 46379
219/992-3795

Pigeon River

Pigeon River Canoe-N-Camp
Route #1, Box 394
Pleasant Lake, IN 46779
219/475-5512 or 351-3537

Pigeon River Trading Post
Canoe Rental & Campground
Box 132
Mingo, IN 46771
219/367-2493

St. Joseph River (north-central)

Fluid Fun Canoe & Kayak Sales & Rental
609 N. Division Street
Bristol, IN 46507
219/848-4279
(also Pigeon River & Trout Creek)

South Bend Recreation Commission
727 S. Eddy Street
South Bend, IN 46615
219/284-9328
(East Raceway tube & raft rentals)

St. Joseph County Parks & Recreation Department
50651 Laurel Road
South Bend, IN 46637
219/277-4828

St. Joseph River (northeast)

Root's Camp & Ski Haus
6844 North Clinton, Hwy. 427
Fort Wayne, IN 46825
219/484-2604
(also Cedar Creek)

Tippecanoe River

Hodge's Float Trips & Trailer Haven
Route #2, Box 71
Monticello, IN 47960
219/965-2338

Germany Bridge Canoe Trips
Route #3, Box 239
Rochester, IN 46975
219/223-2212

Zellers Canoe N-Ski Haus
Route #1
Winamac, IN 46996
219/946-3781

CENTRAL INDIANA

Sugar Creek (west-central)

Clements Canoe Rental & Sales
911 Wayne Ave.
Crawfordsville, IN 47933
317/362-9864 or 435-2131

Sugar Valley Canoe Trips
State Road 47
Route #1, Box 166
Marshall, IN 47859
317/597-2364 or 597-2336

Turkey Run Canoe Trips
311 West Ohio
Rockville, IN 47872
317/597-2456 or 569-6705

Wabash Valley Canoe Rental
616 Lafayette Avenue
Crawfordsville, IN 47933
317/362-2781

Tippecanoe River

River Junction
State Road 25
North Buck Creek, IN 47905
317/589-3875
(also Wabash River)

White River

Mounds State Park
4306 Mounds Road
Anderson, IN 46013
317/642-6627
(shuttle service not provided)

White Key Marina
1502 E. 69th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46220
317/251-1500

Wildcat Creek

Monitor Canoe Rental
7726 State Road 26
East Lafayette, IN 47905
317/589-3506

Three Rivers Canoes
2509 Kickapoo Drive
Lafayette, IN 47905
317/474-9391
(also Wabash River)

SOUTHERN INDIANA

Big Deer Creek

Rocky Point Marina
Jct. Hwys. 66 and 166
Cannelton, IN 47520
812/547-7416
(also Little Deer Creek)

Blue River

Cave Country Canoes/Blue River Marina
P.O. Box 145
Milltown, IN 47145
812/633-4993

Old Mill Bait Shop
Fredericksburg, IN 47120
812/472-3140

Driftwood River

Blue's Canoe Livery
6700 West Lowell Road
Columbus, IN 47201
812/526-9851 or 376-6293
(also Sugar Creek, east-central)

Whitewater River

Cedar Grove Canoe Rental
7040 Whitewater Lane
Brookville, IN 47012
317/647-5310

Cottonwood Campground and Canoe Rental
6288 U.S. Hwy. 52
Cedar Grove, IN 47016
317/647-4618

Metamora Canoe Rental
Route #1
Metamora, IN 47030

Morgan's Brookville Canoe Center
7040 Whitewater Lane
Brookville, IN 47012
317/647-4904

Whitewater River Canoe Rental
P.O. Box 2, U.S. Hwy. 52
Brookville, IN 47012
317/647-5434
(also Sugar Creek, east central)

Other canoeing opportunities are available at various state parks and reservoirs. See the Indiana Recreation Guide for more information.

INDIANA CANOEING ORGANIZATIONS

ACA National
Paddling Committee
2509 Kickapoo Drive
Lafayette, IN 47905

Hoosier Canoe Club
6212 Furnas
Indianapolis, IN 46241

Indiana Canoe Racing Council
4919 N. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46208

North Central Indiana
Canoe Club
57749 8th Street
Elkhart, IN 46517

Ohio Valley Canoe Club
Route #1, Box 252
Tennysen, IN 47637

St. Joseph Valley
Canoe & Kayak Club
c/o Elkhart YMCA
200 E. Jackson Blvd.
Elkhart, IN 46516

U.S. Canoe Association
P.O. Box 5743
Lafayette, IN 47903

U.S. Canoe and Kayak Team
Pan American Plaza Suite
470 201 S. Capitol Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46225

Viking Canoe Club
1615 Corydon Pike
New Albany, IN 47150

Wildcat Canoe Club
P.O. Box 6232
Kokomo, IN 46904-6232

DNR

Streams and Trails Section
Division of Outdoor Recreation
1989