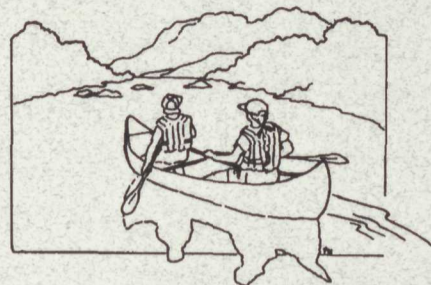


New River Gorge

National River
National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior

Paddling the New: Hinton to Thurmond



New River Gorge is known for its variety of whitewater. The section from Hinton to Thurmond offers challenging Class I, II, & III rapids suitable for intermediate canoeing. **Not recommended for beginners!** Downstream of Thurmond, the river narrows and includes technical Class V rapids. Commercial outfitters offer guided trips on all sections of the river. This brochure is not intended as a substitute for experience. Whitewater canoeing requires different skills and equipment than flatwater canoeing. Take the appropriate precautions and stay within your skill level. River users can check river level information by calling the Hinton Visitor Center at (304) 466-0417 or Canyon Rim Visitor Center at (304) 574-2115.

Safety

- Alcohol is a factor in most drownings.
- Never try to stand in moving water.
- Wear your lifejacket; it may save your life.
- Never overload or put three people in a canoe.
- Scout unfamiliar rapids from shore.
- Kneel to provide stability when running rapids in a canoe.
- Check the river level and weather forecast before your trip.
- Aluminum canoes are not recommended for whitewater use.

Camping



- Camping is permitted along the river, unless otherwise posted. Do not camp on private property. Keep the river clean by carrying out everything you bring in, including fishing line and cigarette butts. Carry out some extra whenever possible.
- Do not drink water from the New River or its tributaries.
 - Camp at least 100 feet from the nearest water source.
 - Bury human waste 300 feet from the nearest water source.
 - Build fires only where fire pits already exist.
 - Burn only dead wood that is on the ground.

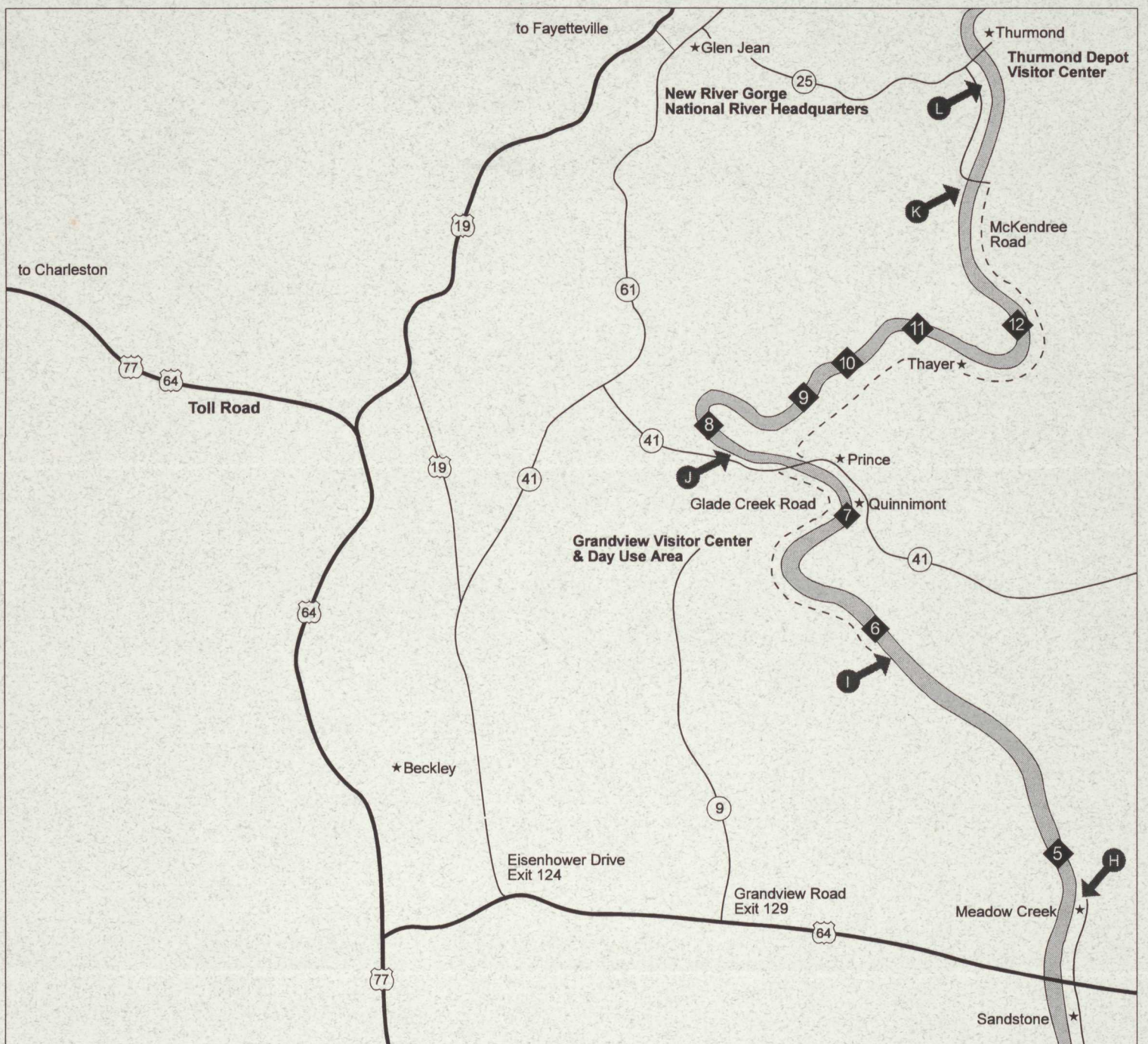
Regulations

Park Rangers and Conservation Officers patrol the river and provide emergency assistance. While boating, each person must have a Coast Guard-approved lifejacket. Fishing and hunting are permitted in accordance with state laws. Littering and other damage to the park is strictly prohibited.



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
New River Gorge National River
P.O. Box 246
Glen Jean, WV 25846
(304) 465-0508





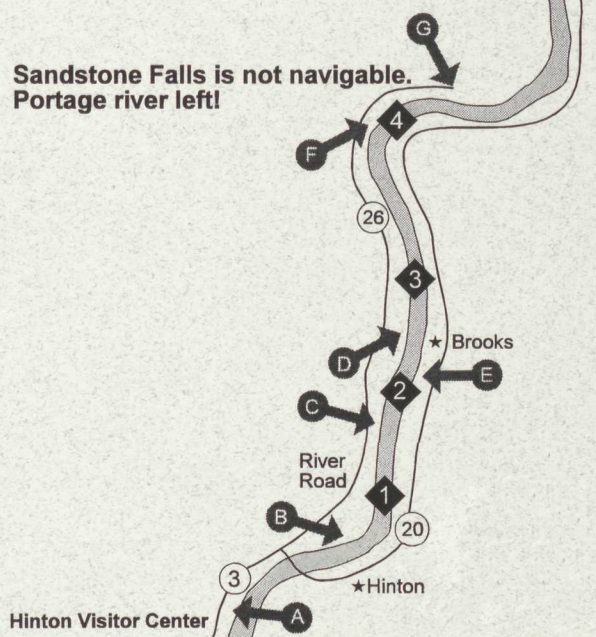
Rapids & Classifications

- 1 Tug Creek—II
- 2 Brooks Falls—III
- 3 Brooks Ledges—II
- 4 Sandstone Falls (**unrunnable**)
Do not attempt to navigate.
- 5 Rocky Rapid—II
- 6 Grassy Shoals—II/III
- 7 Quinimont—III
- 8 McCreery—II
- 9 White House Rapid—II/III
- 10 Dowdy Creek—II
- 11 Ledges—II
- 12 Silo—III

Public River Access

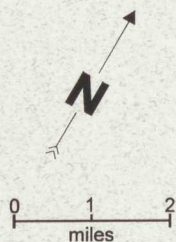
- A Hinton Visitor Center
- B Public River Access
- C Brooks Falls
- D Hellem's Beach
- E Camp Brookside
- F Sandstone Falls (take out)
- G Sandstone Falls (put in)
- H Meadow Creek
- I Glade Creek
- J McCreery
- K Stone Cliff
- L Dun Glen

**Sandstone Falls is not navigable.
Portage river left!**



Legend

- gravel road
- paved road
- ◆ rapids
- river access
- ★ towns



International Scale of River Difficulty

- Class I Moving water with few riffles and small waves. Few or no obstructions.
- Class II Easy rapids with waves up to 3 feet, and wide channels. Some maneuvering is required.
- Class III Rapids with high, irregular waves capable of swamping an open canoe. Narrow passages require complex maneuvering. Scout from shore.

Class IV, V, & VI are not normally found on the Hinton to Thurmond section, except for Sandstone Falls. Sandstone Falls is not navigable!

New River: Hinton to Thurmond