



Planning Your River Trip



Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River provides rich opportunities for river trips and outdoor recreation—a quiet float, a spell of fishing, or a ride through mild rapids. Your enjoyment and safety depend on proper planning. **Your safety is your responsibility. Always be prepared.**

River Trips and Recreational Opportunities

The Upper Delaware's boating season extends from mid-April through October. The water, even in summer, can be cold enough to cause hypothermia.

Always wear a life jacket and appropriate footgear **while swimming, wading, boating, or fishing.** Life jackets are required for children 12 years old and younger.

Boating

You may bring your own boat and equipment and use public river accesses. A valid registration is required for all motorized vessels on the river. Personal watercraft "Jet Skis" are not permitted on the Upper Delaware and use of large motor boats is not feasible.

Private companies rent canoes, rafts, kayaks, and tubes and can arrange a river trip suited to your skill level. They provide safety instruction, a properly fitted life jacket, and will shuttle you back to your vehicle. Many fishing outfitters rent drift boats.



Fishing

A valid New York or Pennsylvania fishing license is required for all anglers, age 16 and older, on the Delaware River between New York and Pennsylvania. **New Jersey licenses are not valid** on the Upper Delaware River. Fishing licenses may be purchased from local sporting goods stores.

Licensed fishing guides provide fishing instruction.

Equipment for a River Day Trip:

- Life Jacket for each person
- Paddle for each person + 1 spare paddle
- Old sneakers or river shoes
- Drinking water – one gallon per person
- Waterproof sunscreen and hat
- Insect repellent
- Sunglasses with strap
- Trash bags
- Bailer
- Kneeling pads
- Waterproof bags for gear
- Rain gear, windbreaker, change of clothes (wool, fleece or other synthetic fibers are recommended, even in summer)



Tie all gear—except Life Jackets—to your boat.

Swimming/Wading

Most drownings on the river have been swimming-related. **Wear your life jacket.**

Do not swim alone. There are no life-guarded swimming areas within Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. Swift currents, sudden drop-offs, and slippery rocks have caused serious injuries and death. Do not swim or wade across the river. Swimming is not permitted at boat launch sites.

Camping/Lodging

Many canoe companies operate campgrounds. Other privately owned campgrounds, motels, and bed & breakfast inns are also available.

A Pennsylvania State Forest primitive camping area below Pond Eddy, New York is available *for river users only*. Free camping permits are available from the National Park Service by calling 845-557-0222.

River Heights

Though the Upper Delaware River depth averages 2 ½ to 4 feet, 12- to 18-foot holes are common. The river can rise rapidly after heavy rains and releases from dams on tributaries.

River height gauges are posted on some bridges. River height and water temperature is provided on the River Conditions Hotline.



Red	Over 17 ft.	Flood Stage Boating not recommended
	12 - 17 ft	Approaching Flood Stage Boating not recommended
Yellow	8 - 12 ft	Very High Water Level Highly skilled boaters ONLY in properly equipped rafts or closed boats.
	6 - 8 ft	High Water Level High skill level is required. Rafting recommended.
Green	4 - 6 ft	Moderately High Water Increased boating skills needed. Rafting recommended.
	2½ - 4 ft	Average Water Level Exposed rocks in rapids; waves up to 3 feet. Good level for all boating.
	Under 2½ ft	Low Water Level Slow flow; exposed rocks. Plan a shorter trip; limit weight.

For Your Safety

- Most drownings occur while swimming. **Wear your life jacket while in, on, or near the river.** Do not swim alone.
- **Do not overestimate your swimming ability.** Do not swim or wade across the river. The Delaware River has strong currents and sharp drop-offs.
- **Wear shoes** to protect against glass and rocks.
- **Guard against sunburn.** Wear a hat and use a sunscreen with a high rating.
- If you capsize, **don't panic. Save people first!** Retrieve boats and equipment only if it can be done safely.
- **Do not tie your life jacket to your boat.**
- **Do not stand in your boat.** Kneel while going through rapids.
- **Bring an adequate water supply.** Do not drink river or stream water.
- Alcohol and boating are a killer combination.

Distance between Access Points

Paddling time vary greatly. Water level, wind, speed of current, paddling skill, and type of vessel all affect the duration of your trip.

At average river height of 2 ½ to 4 feet paddling speed is approximately 2-2.5 miles per hour.

Public Accesses	Public Accesses, Rest Stops & Camping	Buckingham, PA	Lordville, NY	Long Eddy, NY	Kellams, NY	Hankins, NY River Rest Stop	Callicoon, NY & PA	Damascus, PA	Skinnners Falls, NY	Narrowsburg, NY & PA	Ten Mile River, NY	Lackawaxen, PA	Highland, NY	Buckhorn, PA Camping Area	Mongaup, NY Access & Rest Stop	Sparrowbush, NY	Matamoras, PA
Hancock, NY		5	9	15	18	20	27	32	35	40	47	53	56	68	69	72	74
Buckingham, PA			4	10	13	15	22	27	30	35	41	48	50	62	64	67	69
Lordville, NY				6	9	11	18	23	26	32	38	44	47	59	60	63	66
Long Eddy, NY					3	5	12	17	20	25	32	38	41	53	54	57	59
Kellams, NY						2	9	14	17	23	29	35	38	50	51	54	57
Callicoon, NY & PA								5	8	14	20	26	29	41	42	45	48
Damascus, PA									3	8	14	21	24	35	37	40	42
Skinnners Falls, NY										5	12	18	21	33	34	37	39
Narrowsburg, NY & PA											6	13	15	27	29	32	34
Ten Mile River, NY												6	9	21	23	26	28
Lackawaxen, PA													3	15	16	19	22
Highland, NY														12	14	17	19
Mongaup, NY																3	5

For More Information

The Upper Delaware River Conditions Hotline provides river height and water temperature.

24-hour River Conditions Hotline:
845-252-7100 (April — October)

Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River
274 River Road
Beach Lake, PA 18405
Phone 570-685-4871

www.nps.gov/upde