

MAP LEGEND

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- Information
- River Access Points
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- Civil War Sites
- Overmountain Victory Trail
- Mountains-to-Sea Trail
- Upper Yadkin Byway
- Leaf to Vine Scenic Byway
- N.C. Bike Route 2
- N.C. Bike Route 4
- Surry Scenic Bikeway

MAP TERMS & DEFINITIONS

Yadkin River State Trail
A designated Blue Trail that begins at W. Kerr Scott Reservoir and flows to the Uwharrie River where it turns into the Pee Dee River.

Mile Marker
Assigned to a river access based on the closest whole mile. Mileage starts at the confluence of the Uwharrie and Yadkin Rivers and increases as one travels up stream.

River Access
A developed area where public boaters are allowed to access the river.

River Junction
An area, often the public right-of-way, where roads and bridges connect to the water. May be used for drop-off access only. Vehicles must stay within the public right-of-way and not trespass on private property.

Navigation Areas of Interest
Locations in the river where a boat must navigate some type of obstacle. These obstacles change and vary based on the flow of the river.

INFORMATION

riverfacts.com
yadkinriverkeeper.org
americanwhitewater.org

Camping
W. Kerr Scott Reservoir
reserveamerica.com

Streamflow
waterdata.usgs.gov

River Gauge
For information on current river levels:
waterdata.usgs.gov

Crater Park
336.258.8917

Yadkin Shores Access
336.849.7909

Pilot Mountain State Park
336.444.5100

FUNDING PROVIDED BY



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it starts with a river...
email: info@goyadkinvalley.com



A Upper Yadkin River
A tributary of the Yadkin River
Distance: 6 miles
Difficulty: Class III-V
River Junction Points: SR 1372 & US 321, Caldwell County
Notes: This area should be run by experienced and expert boaters in wet weather only. A typical "drop pool," technical white water section requiring excellent scouting and boat handling skills. There are 5 - 6 navigation areas of interest which are Class IV to Class IV+ rapids often with step ledges, blind entrances, or blocked with downed trees. Scout carefully.

B Yadkin River from Patterson to W. Kerr Scott Reservoir
A tributary of the Yadkin River
Distance: 15 miles
Difficulty: Class I-II
River Accesses: Yadkin Valley Community Park Ramp, Caldwell County; Marley's Ford Ramp, Ferguson, NC
River Junction Points: Whisnant Road and Highway 268, Patterson, NC; Walsh Road and Indian Grave Road, Happy Valley, NC; Highway 268, Buffalo Cove, NC; Grandin Road, Laytown, NC; and Highway 268 Bridge, Ferguson, NC
Notes: 6 navigation areas of interest with narrow passages and low hanging limbs. Camping options at W. Kerr Scott Lake.

C Buffalo Creek
A tributary of the Yadkin River
Distance: 6.3 miles
Difficulty: Class II-III
River Junction Points: Road shoulder at Route 1503 Bridge in Buffalo Cove, NC (accessed by NC Highway 268); Yadkin Valley Community Park downstream at the confluence of the Yadkin River in Ferguson, NC. The park has a parking lot, river access, and restrooms.
Notes: 8 - 9 navigation areas of interest with small, drop pool rapids that may be blocked by downed trees and tree limbs. Runnable following rainy weather periods through a remote and deep river gorge. Ideal river level is between 150 CFS - 300 CFS. Above 500 CFS the river becomes a Class III-IV run.

D Elk Creek
A tributary of the Yadkin River
Distance: 8.4 miles
Difficulty: Class I-II (III)
River Junction Points: Near Leatherwood Mountains Resort, Route 1148, Darby, NC; NC-268 Bridge at Elkville, NC
Notes: 3 navigation areas of interest, with 2 low-water bridges requiring portage, and 1 Class III rapid in the gorge just above the junction of the Highway 268 Bridge. Excellent for beginners. River gauge is located on the river left bank after the last rapid before the take out. Ideal river level is between 1.5 ft. and 2.3 ft. Above 3 ft. the gorge rapid becomes a Class III-IV rapid with several big holes below the ledges. Scout on river left.

E Lewis Fork Creek North and South Prongs
A tributary of the Yadkin River
Distance: 7 miles
Difficulty: Class II-III
River Junction Points: SR 1304 in Purlear, NC; SR 1307 in Wilkes County, NC
Notes: Approximately 6 navigation areas of interest, that include tight passages, over hanging limbs and fast, shallow gravel bars. The North Prong is an excellent wet-weather run containing numerous Class II and III rapids. (An optional extended stretch (.8 mile) on South Prong is available by continuing to Route 1156 near US 421.)

F Reddies River
A tributary of the Yadkin River
River Distance: 10 miles
Difficulty: Class I-III (IV)
River Junction Points: County Road 1546 Bridge at Wilbar, NC; 13th Street Access via Yadkin River Greenway, North Wilkesboro, NC; County Road 1540 Bridge and County Road 1517 (Suncrest Orchard Connector Bridge) Wilbar Street, North Wilkesboro, NC
Notes: Most of the whitewater on the Reddies River including Mill Pond rapid is in the first 2 miles of the section. The Mill Pond is a 3-tier ledge rapid which will approach Class IV in difficulty when the stream flow is at a higher level. Scout or portage on river left. Watch for the 20-foot dam just before take out in North Wilkesboro. Portage on rivers left. (An optional shorter trip of 2 miles can be made by taking out at County Road 1540.)

G Roaring River
A tributary of the Yadkin River
Distance: 2 miles
Difficulty: Class I-II (III)
River Junction Points: Cotton Mill Road at Cotton Mill Bridge, and NC 268 Bridge, Roaring River, NC
Notes: 1 navigation area of interest at the last rapid above the take out. A four-foot ledge can be run on river right. Excellent for entry-level boaters with several shoals to hone paddling skills. Ample take out area above the NC 268 Bridge. Ideal river level is between 150 CFS - 300 CFS.

H Mitchell River
A tributary of the Yadkin River
River Distance: 20.4 miles
Difficulty: Class I - II
River Accesses: Kapps Mill, Mountain Park, NC; Burch Station, Elkin, NC
River Junction Points: Poplar Springs/Cummings Road, Elkin, NC
Notes: Easternmost native trout waters with some of the highest water quality. Approximately 11.4 miles of river between accesses. Prepare for a remote setting.

I Fisher River
A tributary of the Yadkin River
River Distance: 21 miles
Difficulty: Class I-III (III)
River Accesses: Fisher River Park, Old Highway 601, Hamlin Ford, and Bray Ford, Dobson, NC
River Junction Points: Turkey Ford Road and Buck Ford Road, Dobson, NC
Notes: Half-day and full-day trips. Remote area with narrow passages. (Approximately 22.7 miles of river from Bray Ford Access to Shoals Access with many river junction points.) Prepare for a remote setting.

J Ararat River
A tributary of the Yadkin River
River Distance: 27.7 miles
Difficulty: Class I-II
River Accesses: Riverside Park, H. B. Rowe Park, and Tharrington Park, Mount Airy, NC; Highway 268 East, Pilot Mountain, NC
River Junction Points: Sheep Farm Road, Mount Airy, NC; Radar Road, Ararat, NC; Quaker Church Road, Siloam, NC
Notes: No junction points crossing this river for 8.9 miles. Approximately 15 miles of river from Highway 268 East Access and Shoals Access. Approximately 15 miles between Tharrington Park Access and the Highway 268 East Access with few river junction points. Prepare for a remote setting.

Additional Small Creek Runs
Stoney Fork Creek in western Wilkes County
Difficulty: Class II (IV)
Big Bugaboo Creek in eastern Wilkes County
Difficulty: Class IV (V)
Big Elkin Creek in eastern Wilkes and Western Surry County
Difficulty: Class II-III

Yadkin River Tributaries
Many of the Yadkin River tributary streams do not have public access ramps and/or public parking areas. These access points are referred to as "junction" points which are often bridges or road shoulders near the stream. If private property and not a Department of Transportation right-of-way, it is recommended that the paddler request permission prior to parking a vehicle near the access point.

1 W. Kerr Scott Tailwater Access to Smoot Park Mile Marker 163
Distance: 7.1 miles
Difficulty: Class I-II
River Put In: Kerr Scott Dam, 202 Ranger Road, Wilkesboro, NC
River Take Out: 202 Chestnut Street, North Wilkesboro, NC
Junction Points: Browns Ford Road, Curtis Bridge Road, and NC 18/NC 268 Bridge in North Wilkesboro and Wilkesboro, NC
Notes: 8 navigation areas of interest located at the bridge junctions. Watch for and avoid low hanging tree limbs.

2 Smoot Park to Roaring River Community Access Mile Marker 156
Distance: 15.1 miles
Difficulty: Class I-II
River Put In: 202 Chestnut Street, North Wilkesboro, NC
River Take Out: 9214 Elkin Highway, Roaring River, NC
Junction Points: NC 115 Bridge in North Wilkesboro, NC; Red White and Blue Road, Roaring River, NC
Notes: 11 navigation areas of interest including Church's Rock, a large rock outcrop on river left approximately halfway through this stretch. Two large islands in this section of river. The first island should be navigated river left, and the second island should be navigated river right. Watch for and avoid low hanging tree limbs.

3 Roaring River Community Access to Ronda Access Mile Marker 145
Distance: 5.2 miles
Difficulty: Class I-II
River Put In: 9214 Elkin Highway, Roaring River, NC
River Take Out: 135 Clingman Road, Ronda, NC
Notes: 4 areas of interest to navigate. Easy, short, scenic section. Watch for and avoid low hanging tree limbs.

4 Ronda Access to Crater Park Access Mile Marker 140
River Distance: 6.8 miles
Difficulty: Class I - II
River Put In: 135 Clingman Road, Ronda, NC
River Take Out: 310 Standard Street, Elkin, NC
Junction Points: Clingman Road Bridge at Ronda, NC; NC Highway 21 Business (North Bridge Street) Bridge, Elkin, NC
Notes: Long stretches of flatwater with approximately 14 navigation areas of interest. Paddle-in camping available at Crater Park access. Showers available at the Visitors Center at 257 Standard St Elkin, NC.

5 Crater Park Access to Burch Station Access Mile Marker 133
River Distance: 6.1 miles
Difficulty: Class I - II
River Put In: 310 Standard Street, Elkin, NC
River Take Out: 116 Greenwood Circle, Elkin, NC
Notes: Long stretches of flatwater with approximately 8 areas of interest to navigate. Burch Station is located river left of an island and can be missed easily. Showers available at the Visitors Center at 257 Standard St Elkin, NC.

6 Burch Station at Mitchell River Access to Yadkin Shores Access Mile Marker 127
River Distance: 4.7 miles
Difficulty: Class I - II
River Put In: 116 Greenwood Circle, Elkin, NC
River Take Out: 8420 US 601, Boonville, NC
Notes: Approximately 14 navigation areas of interest to navigate. Some of these areas are consecutive.

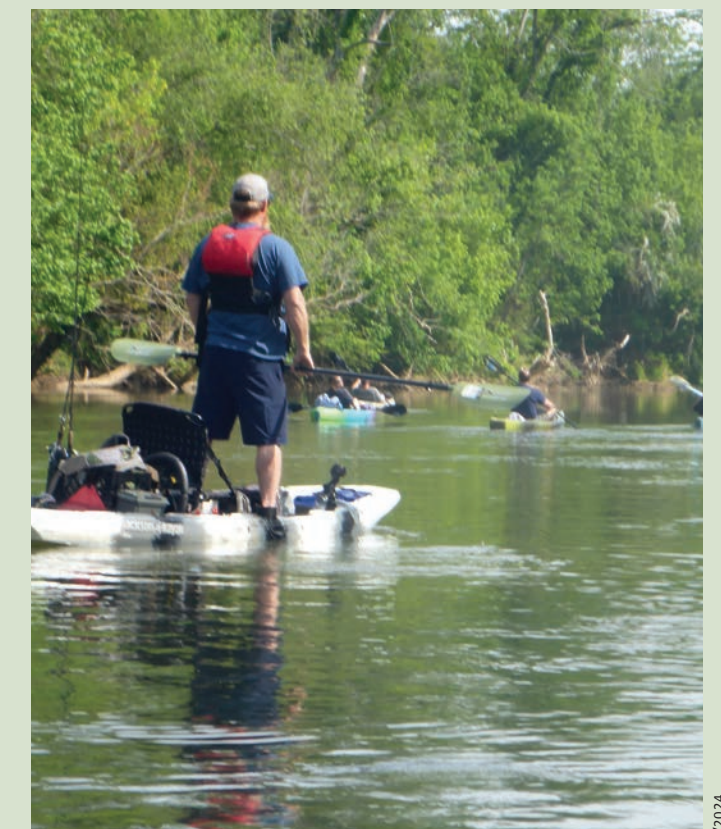
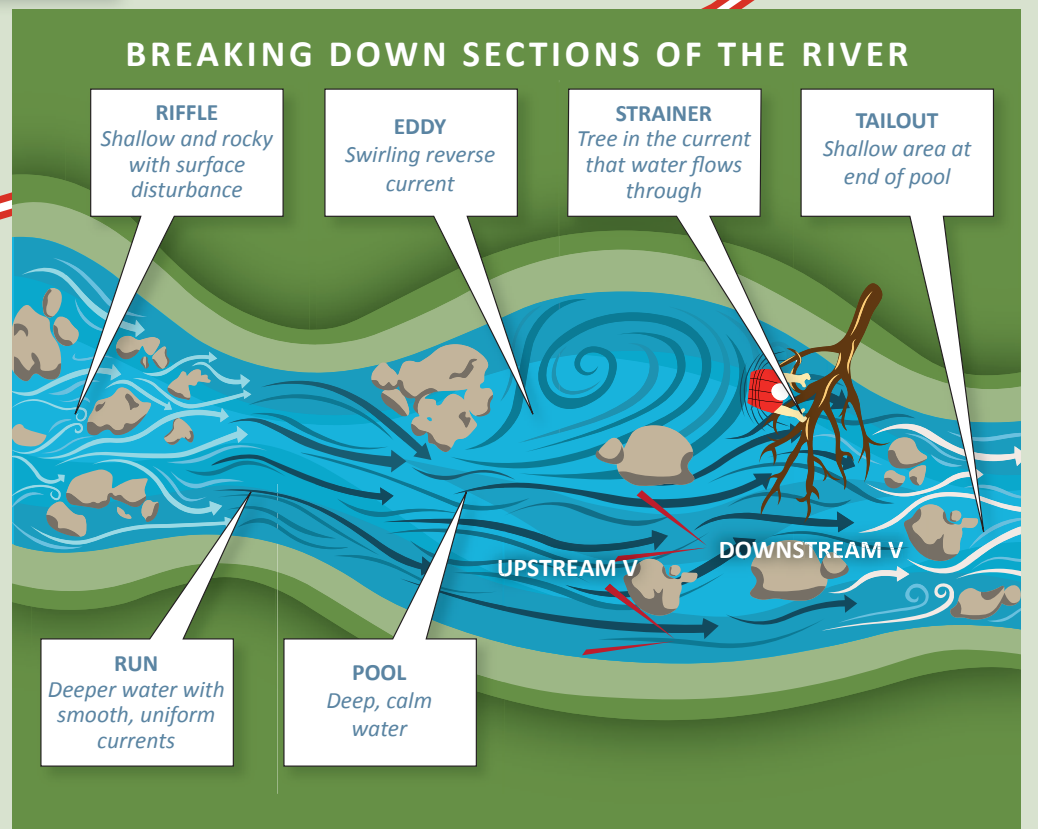
7 Yadkin Shores Access to Shoals Access Mile Marker 122
River Distance: 16.7 miles
Difficulty: Class I - II
River Put In: 8420 US 601, Boonville, NC
River Take Out: 4454 Shoals Road, East Bend, NC
Notes: Lots of flatwater with approx. 26 navigation areas of interest. Shoals Access, Park of Pilot Mtn State Park, is wide and shallow; located river-right before group of islands. Paddle-in camping available downstream of access river-right of the islands.

8 Shoals Access to Donnah Access Mile Marker 105
River Distance: 6.9 miles
Difficulty: Class I - II
River Put In: 4454 Shoals Road, East Bend, NC
River Take Out: 6131 Donnah Park Road, East Bend, NC
Notes: Long stretch of shoals, ledges, and islands in this section with many lines to choose from. Approximately 34 navigation areas of interest with some consecutive. Paddle-in camping is available downstream right of the islands.

9 Donnah Access to Old 421 Access Mile Marker 99
River Distance: 6.6 miles
Difficulty: Class I - II
River Put In: 6131 Donnah Park Road, East Bend, NC
River Take Out: 7695 Yadkinville Road, Lewisville, NC
Notes: Long stretches of flatwater with approximately 7 navigation areas of interest. Mandatory portage river right approximately 2.5 miles downstream of the double islands.

10 Old 421 Access to Huntsville Access Mile Marker 92
River Distance: 5.4 miles
Difficulty: Class I - II
River Put In: 7695 Yadkinville Road, Lewisville, NC
River Take Out: 5600 Courtney-Huntsville Road, Yadkinville, NC
Notes: Long stretches of flatwater with approximately 4 navigation areas of interest.

11 Huntsville Access Mile Marker 87
River Put In: 5600 Courtney-Huntsville Road, Yadkinville, NC
Notes: Last access point in the Yadkin Valley Heritage Corridor. For more information visit: trails.nc.gov and yadkinriverkeeper.org



Note: Yadkin Valley is a predominately rural region. GPS coordinates may not be accurate. All locations on map are approximate.



explore. engage. experience.

The natural beauty of the Yadkin River Valley and the experience of enjoying a float trip along the Yadkin River or one of its tributaries makes the region a fun-filled destination for paddlers.

On the upper section of the river activities include canoeing and kayaking the Class I to Class IV rapids and fly fishing for trout. The sections of river below W. Kerr Scott Dam in Wilkes County and then flowing down through Surry and Yadkin Counties contain rapids rated at Class I and II and are ideal for easy float trips by canoe, kayak, or even paddleboard.

it starts with a river...

- fishing
canoeing
kayaking
rafting
tubing
picnicking
camping

map your river adventure.

The Yadkin River Valley region, designated as the Yadkin Valley Heritage Corridor, is located in the beautiful rolling foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Here you'll find a thriving, vibrant area with charming, historic small towns and stunning vistas teeming with outdoor recreational opportunities.

With scenic waterfalls and lush native plants and wildlife along the riverbanks, you'll find the Yadkin Valley offers abundant opportunities to connect with and enjoy the outdoors.

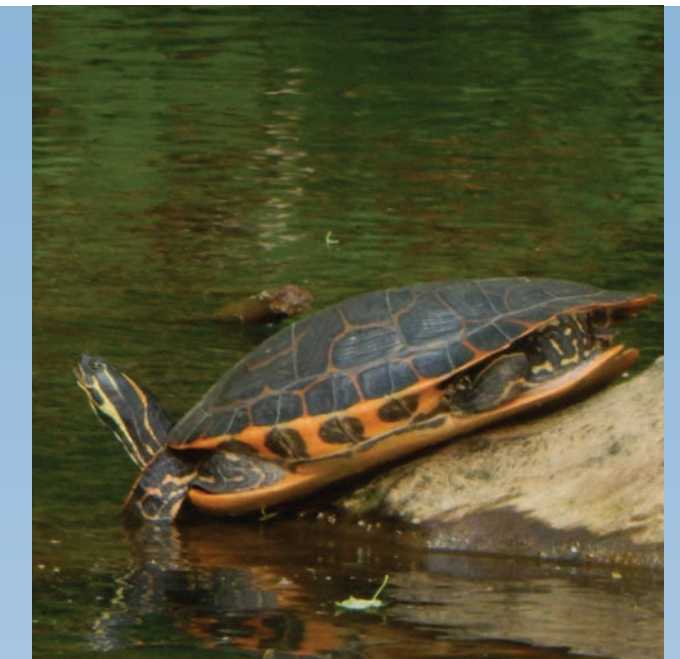
Whether you're looking for a day float trip or a weekend excursion, plan your Yadkin River adventure with our map to help you easily locate your destination as well as nearby amenities, activities, and points of interest.

it starts with a river.

The Yadkin River and its tributaries offer an abundance of river-based recreation through the four-county region of Caldwell, Wilkes, Surry, and Yadkin Counties in North Carolina.

From its headwaters near the Blue Ridge Parkway's Thunder Hill Overlook, the Yadkin River flows over 200 miles southeast into South Carolina, making it one of the longest rivers in North Carolina.

Cover photo: Julian Charles
Fly fishing, waterfall and biking photos courtesy of Tourism Partnership of Surry County



- Before taking your first boat trip, learn the basics
Plan your trip carefully, stay off flooded rivers
Wear an approved personal floatation device (PFD)
Never boat alone
Do not overload your boat
Share your river location and return time
Carry a first aid kit, repair kit, and flashlight
Take sunscreen, insect repellent, sunglasses, brimmed hat
Take rain gear, change of clothes

- Wear non-slip shoes
Tie an extra paddle to the boat
Secure a 10' painter line to the bow and stern
Place food, clothes, etc., in containers tied to the boat
Be aware of weather conditions and risks
Avoid downed trees and strainers
Use portage trail around dams
Complete your trip before dark (2-3 miles per hour boating in normal conditions; twice as long for tubing)
Plan your shuttle
Do not trespass on private property

Know the Conditions Check the weather forecast and never paddle during flood conditions. Be aware that hypothermia is possible even in warm weather if the water is cold. A good rule of thumb is that if the water temperature plus the air temperature is less than 100 degrees Fahrenheit, then hypothermia may occur.
Avoid Downed Trees and Strainers Downed trees and strainers are a dangerous hazard on any river. Avoid paddling close to a downed tree or any structure that could trap you between the object and your boat.
Respect Property The rivers are public but flow through private property. Do not trespass, abuse, or litter the waters, banks, or shorelines. Collect your refuse and dispose of properly when your trip is over. Do not cut or damage plant life on the riverbanks. Refer to the public access point shown on the brochure map.

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information

- 1 Yadkin Valley Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center
2 Mount Airy Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center
3 Wilkes Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center
4 Northwest North Carolina Visitor Center
5 Yadkin County Chamber & Visitor Center
6 Jonesville Welcome Center
7 Pilot Mountain State Park Visitor Center
8 Caldwell County Chamber & Visitor Information Center
9 Pilot Mountain Visitor Center
10 I-77 NC Welcome Center

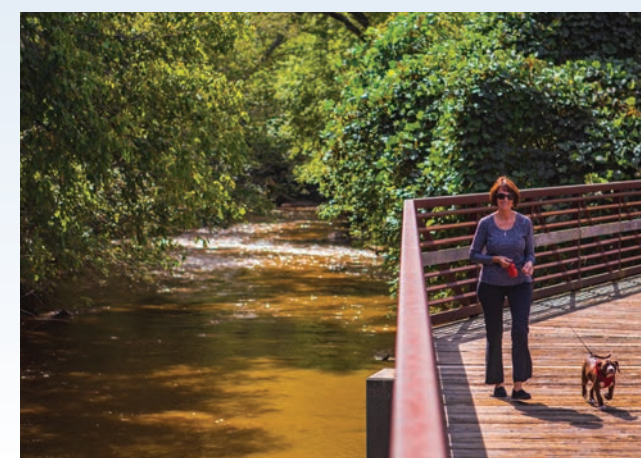
- information
restrooms
picnicking
hiking
camping
biking
water activities
scenic area
fishing
disc golf
historic site
river access
parking
outdoor outfitters
lodging
dining

YADKIN RIVER RUNS

- 1 W. Kerr Scott Tailwater Access to Smoot Park
2 Smoot Park to Roaring River Community Access
3 Roaring River Community Access to Ronda Access
4 Ronda Access to Crater Park Access
5 Crater Park Access to Burch Station Access
6 Burch Station at Mitchell River Access to Yadkin Shores Access
7 Yadkin Shores Access to Shoals Access
8 Shoals Access to Donaha Access
9 Donaha Access to Old 421 Access
10 Old 421 Access to Huntsville Access
11 Huntsville Access

YADKIN RIVER TRIBUTARY RUNS

- A Upper Yadkin River
B Yadkin River from Patterson to W. Kerr Scott Reservoir
C Buffalo Creek
D Elk Creek
E Lewis Fork Creek - North and South Prongs
F Reddies River
G Roaring River
H Mitchell River
I Fisher River
J Ararat River



Trout Waters Many streams offer excellent opportunities for trout fishing such as:
Upper Yadkin River
Buffalo Creek
Lewis Fork Creek
Elk Creek
Stoney Fork Creek
Reddies River
Roaring River
Big Elkin Creek
Mitchell River
Fisher River
Ararat River
...and other smaller streams
Delayed Harvest
Hatchery Supported
The Blue Ridge Parkway
NC Trout Stream Information



SAFETY TERMS AND DEFINITIONS
Rapid Classification System
Class I Rapid: Easy. Fast moving water with riffles and small waves. Little risk.
Class II Rapid: Novice. Straightforward rapids with wide, clear channels. Easy to maneuver. Little risk.
Class III Rapid: Intermediate. Rapids with moderate, irregular waves with complex maneuvers. Some risk.
Class IV Rapid: Advanced. Intense, powerful but predictable rapids that require skill and experience with risks including the possibility of injury.
Class V Rapid: Expert. Extremely long, obstructed, or violent rapids where risks may result in severe injury or death.
Class VI Rapid: Extreme and exploratory rapids. Rarely attempted. Extreme difficulty, unpredictable, and dangerous. Risk of errors are severe, and rescue may be impossible.
SAFETY GEAR
Dry Bag: A waterproof, sealable bag that keeps contents dry.
First Aid Kit: A set of materials and tools used for giving emergency treatment to an injured person.
Helmet: A hard or padded hat that protects the head.
Painter: Usually 10 feet long, a line attached to the bow and stern of a boat to aid in boat rescue and to secure the boat to the shoreline.
PFD/Lifejacket: Personal Floatation Device in the form of a vest or suit to prevent drowning.
River Knife: Small knife used to cut small lines or use as a tool.
Spray Skirt: A piece of waterproof material that fits around a paddler and opening of a kayak to prevent water from entering the craft.
Throw Bag: A rescue device with a rope stuffed loosely into a bag that can be thrown to a paddler or swimmer in trouble.

DESCRIPTIVE TERMS
Boat Scouting: Observing a rapid from a boat by judging multiple eddies at the top of and on the way down the rapid.
CFS/CMS: Cubic Feet Per Second/Cubic Meters Per Second
Hydrological terms for measuring water flow on a river.
Downstream/Upstream: The direction the current is flowing.
Downstream V: A tongue of dark water that loosely forms a 'V' shape with whitewater at the edges that indicates the deepest and most obstacle-free entry into or path through a rapid.
Eddy: A river feature formed when the current flows around an obstacle and water flows back upstream to create a calmer and slower current. An area to rest, avoid the current, and scout.

Ferry: A river-running technique used to cross a downstream current to get from one side of the river to the other without being carried downstream with the current.
Gauge: Used to measure the water height of a river.
Gradient: Refers to the amount of drop or loss of elevation in a river from put in to take out.
Horizon Line: A point in the river where the current drops off, and the rapid below cannot be seen from upstream.
Hydraulic/Hole: Created when water flows over a rock or ledge forcefully downstream and water from downstream flows back upstream to fill in the depression.
Keeper Hole: Powerful hole or hydraulic in which the foam pile or backwash is so strong that it does not easily release boats, debris, etc., and recirculates them in the hole.
Open Water: A large body of water that is not protected from the wind by trees or shoreline. Should only be attempted by experienced boaters.
Portage: The act of carrying your boat around a rapid due to an obstruction or the route lacking a safe runnable passage.
Rapid: A section of river where the gradient increases causing the flow of the water to speed up creating more turbulence.
Reading Water: The technique used to decipher and recognize the safest paths through turbulent whitewater.
River Right/River Left: Describes the river reference when facing downstream.
Scouting a Rapid: The act of pulling over above a rapid, exiting the boat, and walking to the edge of the rapid to look at it from land, discern the safest path, and decide to continue or portage.
Standing Wave: A tall wave that has no foam pile and that water is flowing through quickly.
Strainer: A tree or tree branches in the current that allow for the water to flow through but that can trap a boat.
Swiftwater Rescue: Rescue techniques for situations involving current or fast-flowing water by specially trained personnel, ropes, and mechanical systems that are more robust than those used in standard rope rescue.
Wave: A feature formed when the gradient increases, the river constricts, or the current flows over rocks and other debris on the riverbed.
White Water: Formed when flowing water mixes with air creating aerated water. On rivers, white water is formed when water flows over obstacles such as rocks in the riverbed or when the gradient of a river increases, quickening the flow, and creating turbulence.

BOATING TERMS
Bow/Stern: Front and rear of the boat.
Deck/Hull: Top and bottom of the boat.
Outfitting: Adding additional features that improve comfort, fit, and convenience to a boat.
Put In/Take Out: The river access points where paddlers start and end their trip.
Shuttle: The ability to leave your boat and gear at your launch point and having a vehicle at your take out location to transport your boat, gear, and passengers.

