

Juniata River Water Trail

Lower Section

Map & Guide

Water trails are recreational waterways on a lake, river, or ocean between specific locations, containing access points and day-use and/or camping sites for the boating public. Water trails emphasize low-impact use and promote stewardship of the resources. Explore this unique Pennsylvania water trail.



For your safety and enjoyment:

- Always wear a life jacket.
- Obtain proper instruction in boating skills.
- Know fishing and boating regulations.
- Be prepared for river hazards.
- Carry proper equipment.

nhoto-Brad Watkin JCW



THE JUNIATA RIVER

The Juniata River's headwaters originate on the eastern slopes of the Allegheny Front, part of the eastern continental divide, at an elevation of \sim 3,000 feet above sea level. From there, the waters cut through the Ridge and Valley Province for more than 150 miles, dropping to 340 feet above sea level at their confluence with the Susquehanna River. The Juniata River watershed is comprised of more than 6,500 miles of streams, together draining 3,400 square miles of land in southcentral Pennsylvania. The river's three main tributaries are the Little Juniata, the Frankstown Branch and the Raystown Branch.

This region reflects the orientation of the underlying bedrock and is characterized by northeast-southwest trending long, narrow ridges and broad to narrow valleys with relief of several hundred feet. Sandstones are the major ridge former in the mountains. Tuscarora Sandstone (Lowermost Silurian) is the major ridge former in the higher mountains. Lower ridges can be formed by Bald Eagle Formation sandstones (Upper Ordovician), Ridgeley Sandstone (Lower Devonian) and other more resistant rock formations. The valley bottoms of this region are limestone, soft siltstone and shale.

FLOATING THE RIVER

The ability to paddle the Juniata River varies throughout the year. Peak water flow occurs between February and May, and possibly a few weeks in December. Between July and August, the river may be below desired levels. Of course, mid-summer paddling may be the most enjoyable if you are able to take advantage of the days following a rainstorm.

Expect float speed to be approximately 2-3 miles per hour. Keep in mind, a hard rain or dry spell will affect water flow. There are many cobble bars on the Juniata that may ground your boat if the water is too low. Consequently, it is a good idea to wear water-tolerable shoes. In addition, several "pools" exist on the river that may retain adequate water yearround.

You will encounter many bridges and bridge remnants on the Juniata River. These structures tend to collect strainers and can be potentially life threatening, especially when coupled with high, fast-moving water. Keep in mind, the river is dynamic - rapids can migrate and strainers can be hidden just below the water's surface. Be sure to check weather conditions before you leave home. Also, thoroughly scout the river at any and all vantage points before putting in.

PENNSYLVANIA BOATING REGULATIONS

- tation device (PFD or life-jacket) in serviceable condition and of the appropriate size is required for each person in your boat. If your boat is 16 feet or longer, one throwable device (seat cushion or ring buoy) is required. Canoes and kayaks, regardless of length, are not required to carry a throwable device.
- Life jackets must be worn by all children 12 years old and younger on all boats 20 feet or less in length while under way, and on all canoes and kayaks. Others are strongly encouraged to wear a PFD at all times while on the water.
- All boats must display an anchor light (a white light visible 360 degrees) when at anchor between sunset and sunrise. Boats can use a lantern or clip-on battery-powered unit to meet this requirement.
- All powered boats must show running lights between sunset and sunrise. Between sunset and sunrise, unpowered boats must carry a white light (visible 360 degrees), installed or portable, ready to be displayed in time to avoid a collision.
- All motorboats are required to carry a sound-producing mechanical device audible for a half-mile. Athletic whistles meet this requirement.
- All motorboats must be registered, regardless of where they launch.
- Unpowered boats (canoes, kayaks, rowboats, rafts) using Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission access areas must either be registered OR display a valid launch permit. Launch permits can be purchased on the web at www.fish.state.pa.us. Click the "Outdoor Shop" icon.
- Operating watercraft, including canoes, kayaks, and rafts, under

ALONG THE WAY- LOWER JUNIATA RIVER WATER TRAIL (MILES CORRESPOND TO RIVER MILEAGE ON MAP)

Juniata River

Mile 50, Restored Canal- A 1.5-mile section of restored canal, within Locust Campground runs roughly from river mile 50 to 49 and can be paddled. Visit www.locustcampground.com or call 717-248-3974 for more information.

Mile 46, Lewistown- Historic structures in town include the Stone Arch Bridge, the historic Courthouse, the Civil War Veterans' Memorial, the Embassy Theatre, and the Mifflin County Historical Society. A developing trail system will eventually link three area parks, providing opportunities for biking, running and sightseeing.

Mile 46, Kishacoquillas Creek drains the valleys north of Lewistown. "Kish" Creek is rated as approved trout waters; a segment through Burnham is designated as class A wild trout waters. For those familiar with whitewater paddling, there is a short, but sweet, run on Kish Creek just north of town. This site is a preferred run for kayak slalom racing in the region. For information on the slalom races visit: www.machonekayakteam.org.

Mile 38, Lewistown Narrows Canal Park contains a restored 1860's lock tender's house that serves as a museum, and a restored lift lock from the days when canal boats carried people and freight across the state. Interpretive signs describe the canal era. The park also features parking, benches, tables and a hiking trail leading from the parking lot a mile and a half upriver to a PF&BC boat launch. Access is from the Arch Rock exit of U.S. 22/322 along old route 22.

Mile 35, Lost Creek enters the Juniata River at Cuba Mills. This stream is rated as approved trout waters, including designated class A wild trout water.

Mile 34, Mifflintown is river left, not to be confused with Mifflin on river right. Mifflintown has a good selection of lodging accommodations, including the Rose House B&B (717-436-6605) and Barb's B&B (717-463-3207). Mifflin hosts a community park with ball fields and a public swimming pool.

Mile 31.1, Tuscarora Valley is rich in cultural history. The abandoned Tuscarora Academy school is one of the oldest standing landmarks in the Juniata Valley, dating to the late 1820's. Nearby is the Book Indian Mound, credited as being a massive Native American burial site. Unfortunately, much of this site has been disturbed and is currently located within an agricultural field. Other sites of interest include the 100-year-old Academia-Pomeroy Covered Bridge, the Pomeroy Mill, and Fort Bigham.

Mile 31, The current bridge over the Juniata at Port Royal is the fifth to be constructed in that location since 1831. All previous bridges were washed out by flooding. Lehman's Covered Bridge, located southwest of Port Royal, was constructed in 1858 and was partially rebuilt in 1972. It now carries a private road over Licking Creek, off Route 333.

Mile 30.9, Tuscarora Creek is one of the larger tributaries of the Juniata River. Much of the creek and its contributing streams flow through relatively isolated land characterized by mountainous terrain and unbroken forest. The headwaters and side streams of Tuscarora Creek are rated as approved trout waters.

Mile 30.8, For boat rentals and river services contact Juniata River Adventures (<u>www.juniatariveradventures.com</u>) (877-512-5772).

Mile 29, The town of Mexico offers dining and camping opportunities. Buttonwood Campground (www.buttonwoodcamp.com) is located just off the river (left) and provides a livery service. River Rock Campground (www.riverrockcampground.com) is located on the river (left) and offers shoreline river access for overnight paddlers. Near Mexico is the Patterson Monument, a dedication to the fort defenses erected by James Patterson and son William in the 1700's.

Mile 26, Zook and Lyter Cottages (717-436-8530) offers lodging, boat rentals, and an albino squirrel residence.

Mile 25, PF&BC Van Dyke Research Center strives to maintain a healthy number of American shad in the Juniata and Susquehanna rivers. American shad are ocean migrating fish. Once numerous in the Juniata River, the shad population has decreased to a threatened low due to hydroelectric dam construction. The recent partial comeback of this species is credited to fish ladders being built at the dams. It is expected that natural reproduction will eventually restore shad populations in the Juniata and Susquehanna rivers.

Mile 22, Nestled in the hills of central Pennsylvania, Thompsontown is one of the major towns in Juniata County. It is a regional business hub with restaurants, stores, artists and craftsmen, and businesses of all descriptions. In town, find Haldeman Park, which features amenities typical of community parks. General Evans Bed and Breakfast (www.generalevans.com) welcomes river-goers.

Mile 18, Donnally's Mill is located five miles west of Millerstown on Rt. 17 along Raccoon Creek. The three-story limestone mill was built in 1765 and was remodeled in 1836. Nearby is Secrist Mill, a 2.5-story mill surrounded by other outbuildings. Although situated right by Raccoon Creek, it was not water powered, but utilized gasoline engines and electric motors for power to grind grain.

Mile 17, Millerstown Community Park Access (river left) has a public swimming pool and plenty of shade. It's a good place to have lunch or take a walk along the river.

Mile 16.5, The entire length of Cocolamus Creek is rated as approved trout waters.

Mile 16, Pittman's Riverside Campground (717-589-3422) offers all the amenities necessary for a pleasant stay.

Mile 12, Newport's historic district is known primarily for the Italianate and Second Empire styles of architecture. Examples in town date back to the early 1800's. This district is also referred to as Reider's Ferry. SW of Newport is Clay's Covered Bridge. Originally built in 1890, the 82-foot bridge spanned Little Buffalo Creek and was located one mile west of its present location. The bridge was moved when Holman Lake was created. Fleisher Bridge is also located nearby, on Fairground Road. It crosses Big Buffalo Creek and was built in 1887. Near town is Little Buffalo Family Campground

(www.littlebuffalofamilycamping.com).

Mile 9, Howe Township Park Access (river left) is a great place to climb out of your boat, stretch out and enjoy the shade.

Mile 6, Green Valley Campground and Grocery (717-567-3039) offers overnight camping along with boat access and a grocery store.

Mile 0, The town of Duncannon is located at the mouth of the Juniata along the shore of the Susquehanna River. Duncannon offers all the amenities necessary to relax after a trip down the river. With the Appalachian Hiking Trail passing through, the town is a hotspot for overnight backpackers. A popular stop is the Doyle Hotel (www.doylehotel.com), a landmark in Duncannon for the last 100 years. It was built by Anheuser Busch and has been operated by various owners over the years. The Old Sled Works Antique and Craft Market is housed in the former factory of Standard Novelty Works who manufactured the famous Lightening Glider sleds. Located on North Market Street, the market features a penny arcade, soda fountain, a sled museum and a restored forest fire lookout tower. Riverfront Rent-A-Boat and Campground (717-834-5252) offers trailer and tent sites, boat rentals, river access, and shuttle parking.

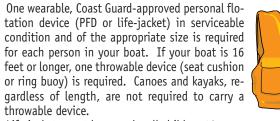
photo-Allegheny Ridge Corporatio



Pennsylvania Main Line Canal The Pittsburgh-to-Harrisburg Main Line Canal Greenway[™] traces the Juniata River

Trees and Shrubs

Major canopy trees found in the region are chestnut and red oak on steep upper slopes and hickory and white oak on lower slopes. Other trees found on mountainsides include red maple, black gum and sweet birch. Lowland areas contain red maple, black qum, hemlock, white pine, yellow birch, sweet birch and paper birch. Secondary woody plants include silky dogwood, spice brush, witch hazel, huckleberry, dewberry and blueberry. Riparian habitats along the corridor support box elder, sycamore, silver maple, and willow canopy vegetation along with American elm, red maple, musclewood, crattaegus and spice brush. Look for hemlock, white ash and yellow birch in the gorge areas.



For up-to-the-minute data on water levels, consult United States Geologic Survey gauge information at: http://waterdata.usgs.gov/pa/nwis/rt. Useful gauging stations are at the following locations (with recommended minimum levels in feet): Lewistown (3.1); Newport (3.5) on the Juniata; and Port Royal (3.25) on Tuscarora Creek.

Water conditions at the mouth of the Juniata partially depend on the Susquehanna River. If you plan on boating through to the Susquehanna, it is advised that you consult the guide for the Susquehanna River Water Trail: Middle Section. The Susquehanna Watershed stretches far north into New York State and has several main branches. As a result, the water level of the Juniata River may not be an accurate representation of what to expect when merging with the Susquehanna. Flood stage for the Susquehanna at Harrisburg is 17 feet. This is well beyond safe paddling conditions.



Join the annual Juniata River Sojourn in June: www.jcwp.org

RESPECT THE PRIVACY & RIGHTS OF LANDOWNERS

Please respect the privacy and rights of landowners along the Juniata River Water Trail by obtaining permission before entering any privately owned land. Unless you are certain of land ownership, assume it is private property. In any case, avoid loud noises and boisterous behavior. Remember that sound carries across water much more clearly than on land. Use the same courtesy that you would want. A friendly wave or quiet greeting is always welcome.

the influence of alcohol or drugs is illegal. The law is strictly enforced for user safety. For further information on boating regulations, contact the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission at <a href="http://htt

/www.fish.state.pa.us. PADDLING SAFETY TIPS

Wear your life jacket. Some 80 percent of all recreational boating fatalities happen to people who are not wearing a life jacket.

Expect to get wet. Even the best paddlers sometimes capsize or swamp their boats. Bring extra clothing in a water-

- proof bag.
- Be prepared to swim. If the water looks too hazardous to swim in, don't go paddling.
- If you capsize, hold on to your boat, unless it presents a life-threatening situation. If floating in a current, position yourself on the upstream side of the capsized boat.
- Scout ahead whenever possible. Know the river. Avoid surprises.
- Be prepared for the weather. Get a forecast before you go. Sudden winds and rains are common and can turn a pleasant trip into a risky and unpleasant venture.
- Wear wading shoes or tennis shoes with wool, polypropylene, pile, or neoprene socks.
- Never take your boat over a low-head dam.
- **Portage** (carry) your boat around any section of water about which you feel uncertain.
- **Never boat alone.** Boating safety increases with numbers.
- **Keep painter lines** (ropes tied to the bow) and any other ropes coiled and secure.
- Never tie a rope to yourself or to another paddler, especially a child.
- Kneel to increase your stability before entering rough water, like a rapid.
- If you collide with an obstruction, lean toward it. This will usually prevent the capsizing or flooding of your boat.
- File a float plan with a reliable person, indicating where you are going and when you will return. Remember to contact the person when you have returned safely.

Muskellunge

5. Minimize campfires.

Brown Trout

Walleye

FISHING OPPORTUNITIES

The Juniata River watershed supports diverse coldwater and coolwater/warmwater fisheries that include the species shown at right. Check the current fishing regulations and seasons before fish-**Rock Bass** ing the watershed. Review this year's fishing summary online at: www.fish.state.pa.us.

EMERGENCY NUMBER: 911

STEWARDSHIP

Help care for the land, water and cultural resources along the Juniata River Water Trail by respecting wildlife, the environment and other recreationists. It is important to wash footwear, boats and vehicles to minimize the spread of invasive species from one ecosystem to another. "Leave No Trace," a national outdoor ethics program, provides guidelines to minimize your impact. Visit www.Lnt.org for more information.

- Leave no trace for camping and day use:
- Plan and prepare.

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- Travel and camp on durable surfaces. 2.
- 3. Dispose of waste properly.
- 4. Leave behind what you find.
- 6. Respect wildlife.

Smallmouth Bass

7. Be considerate of other visitors.

from its mouth at Duncannon westward to Pittsburgh-To-Harrisburg Main Line Canal Hollidaysburg on the Beaverdam Branch. From **GREENWAY** Hollidaysburg, the Greenway follows the Al-

legheny Portage Railroad over Allegheny Mountain to Johnstown on the Conemaugh River. Operation of the portage railroad began in 1834 and facilitated the transportation of river freight over the mountain. The freight was then shipped via the Kiski-Conemaugh and Allegheny rivers to Pittsburgh. This transportation corridor was a major route between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh for both people and goods. www.mainlinecanalgreenway.org.

Camping Information

The entire Juniata River Water Trail (Upper and Lower sections) conveniently provides numerous opportunities for primitive camping, allowing a one-day trip to extend into a 2-3-night sojourn. See the "Along the Way" section for public campgrounds. There are two state forests adjacent to the trail where camping is permitted. The first is Rothrock on the Little Juniata (mile 106). The forest borders both sides of the river here. Be aware that camping is <u>not</u> permitted in the Little Juniata Natural Area; please hike to a location outside of the natural area to camp. The second state forest is Tuscarora, below the mouth of Aughwick Creek. The Southern Alleghenies Conservancy hosts roughly 100 acres of land north of the river just above Warrior Ridge Dam. This land is open to the public and camping is permitted.

In addition to riverside camping, the overnight paddler will find that many public islands in the Juniata are great places to stay. These islands are marked on the map with geographic coordinates provided. Please refer to: www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/camping/primitive.aspx. If unsure of island ownership, please do <u>not</u> stop.

Native Americans

In the 17th century, the Juniata River valley was home to the Onojutta-Haga Indians. Onojutta (pronounced Ooh-nee-ooh-ah-tah) means vertical or standing stone, and is the origin of today's "Juniata". It is these people who are credited with erecting the ancient "Standing Stone" monument.

Three tribes of the Lenni Lenape, or "Original People," were also in the region. The Lenni Lenape became known as the "Delawares" by the colonists, and shortly thereafter began occupying land farther west as they were forced from their homelands.

In case of emergency call 911 or

Lewistown Hospital - (717) 248-5411 Holy Spirit Hospital (Camp Hill) - (717) 834-6919



PA River Sojourns Check out sojourns for this trail and others at: <u>www.pawatersheds.org</u>.

Mammals

The area supports roughly 50 species of mammals, the smaller of which include bats, mice, shrews, squirrels, voles, weasels, rats, rabbits, foxes, raccoons, opossums, porcupines and beavers. Larger animals that may be found here are black bears, white-tailed deer, bobcats and covotes.

Two Important Mammal Areas (IMA) can be found along the Juniata River Water Trail. The Canoe Creek IMA (105,638 acres) is home to the endangered Indiana bat as well as the largest maternity colony of little brown bats in Pennsylvania. An evening visit to the Turkey Valley Church in Canoe Creek State Park between June and August will delight you with the spectacle of more than 20,000 bats emerging from the church in a two hour period! The Thousand Steps IMA (5,341 acres) is home to the threatened Allegheny woodrat, a charming mammal that lives in high-elevation rock outcrops.

For more information, visit www.juniatavalleyaudubon.org and www.pawildlife.org/imap.htm.

Pennsylvania Important Bird Areas

Designated by the Pennsylvania Biological Survey, four Important Bird Areas (IBA) exist within the immediate vicinity of the Juniata River Water Trail. The Canoe Creek Watershed IBA (15,259 acres) is contiguous with the Bald Eagle Ridge IBA (21,800 acres) to the west and the Frankstown Branch IBA (5,000 acres) to the east. More than 220 bird species have been documented in the Canoe Creek Watershed IBA, of which 110 species are breeding. The Frankstown Branch IBA is contiguous with the Greater Tussey Mountain IBA (124,118 acres) to the north and south. This IBA features the greatest population density of Cerulean warblers in Pennsylvania and is noted as being the primary spring migration route for golden eagles east of the Mississippi River. Noteworthy species to watch for include the golden-winged warbler, the Cerulean warbler, the golden eagle and the bald eagle. Canoe Creek IBA and Frankstown IBA are both sites on the Susquehanna River Birding and Wildlife Trail.

For more information, visit <u>www.juniatavalleyaudubon.org</u>, www.pa.audubon.org and www.pabirdingtrails.org.

Visitor Opportunities

Outfitters, guides, accommodations and recreational opportunities are abundant in this area. For more specific information on attractions presented in this guide, please contact one of the following: Mifflin and Juniata Counties Region 717-248-6713 www.juniatarivervalley.org Perry County Region 717-567-7023, http://www.perrycountyarts.org/

Dauphin, Franklin, and Perry Counties Region 717-231-7788, www.VisitHHC.com

