A National Scenic Byway

Relax and enjoy the surprises nature has to offer “up north.”

The 22-mile River Road Scenic Byway extends westward from Lake Huron to the inland lands of the Huron-Manistee National Forests, paralleling the historic Riviere aux Sable (River of Sand). The Au Sable River is a major waterway, with six hydroelectric dams providing power and water recreation. Travelers enjoy lush forests and breathing vistas from high banks along the river. There are motorized trails for off-road vehicles and snowmobiles, as well as quiet trail systems for hiking and cross-country skiing. Several boat landings provide easy access for canoeing, kayaking, fishing and pleasure boating.

Camping enthusiasts can choose from the modern facilities, more primitive camping at Rollways or Monument Campgrounds or a remote campsite along the Au Sable River shoreline.

For More Information
Huron-Manistee
Website: www.fs.usda.gov/hmnf
Email: r9_hmnf@website.fs.fed.us
Facebook: www.facebook.com/huronmanisteenfs
Toll Free: 1-800-821-6263

Lumberman’s Monument Visitor Center
Phone: 989-362-8961/TTY: 711 + phone #

Huron Shores Ranger Station
Phone: 989-739-0728/TTY: 711 + phone #

Forest Supervisor’s Office
Phone: 231-775-2421/TTY: 711 + phone #

Times and Distances
River Road National Scenic Byway
Length: 22.0 mi / 35.4 km
Time without stops: One hour
Time with stops: Two days

Highbanks River Trail
Length: 7 miles
Time: 4 - 6 hours

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
11. **Kiwaniis Monument** was established by the Michigan Chapter of Kiwanis International to memorialize the contributions which led to replanting over 10,000 acres of the Huron National Forest in the 1920s and 1930s. Kiwanis chapters from all over Michigan provided the rocks and stones used in the statue. Many stones have the chapter’s name or number carved into them.

**Where**: Monument Rd. 1/4 mile south of River Rd.

**Amenities**: Gravel parking.

12. **Sawmill Point** has 15 primitive campsites located along the Au Sable River.

**Where**: Cooke Dam Rd., 3.5 miles north of River Rd.

**Amenities**: Fee site, boat launch, camping. Reservation required for camping.

13. **Cooke Dam Hydroelectric Plant** is on the National Register of Historic Places. Work began on the dam in 1909. The dam was completed in 1911 but was not put on line until 1912 because transmission lines were not completed until then. Electricity was transmitted to Bay City, Saginaw, Flint and Owosso.

**Where**: Cooke Dam Rd., 3.5 miles north of River Rd.

**Amenities**: Boat launches and accessible fishing pier.

14. **Foote Pond Overlook** provides a spectacular view from the high sand bluffs overlooking Foote Pond. Visitors may see eagles that nest nearby. The overlook has a paved access road and parking and barrier-free access to a wood deck. The access road and parking lot are too tight for buses or motor homes to negotiate.

**Where**: River Rd., 9 miles west of Oscoda

**Amenities**: Paved parking, view deck and sand dune.

15. **Foote Dam** provides access to the tailwaters of Foote Dam. This is a prime location for steelhead and salmon fishing. It was built in 1918 and is named for W.A. Foote.

**Where**: Rea Rd., 5 miles west of Oscoda.

**Amenities**: Accessible fishing, parking, toilets and boat launch.

16. **Lower Au Sable Scenic Overlook** provides a spectacular view from the high sand bluffs overlooking the lower Au Sable. Enjoy opportunities to watch the spring and fall steelhead and salmon runs.

**Where**: River Rd., 4.5 miles west of Oscoda

**Amenities**: Parking, two stairways accessing the river and interpretive signs.

17. **Whirlpool River Access** is a boat launch for small fishing boats and canoes on the Lower Au Sable. An accessible boardwalk leads to a hardened fishing access area.

**Where**: River Rd., 3 miles west of Oscoda

**Amenities**: Accessible fishing pier, toilets, parking, boat launch, fee area.

18. **Eagle Run Trail** is seven miles of loop trails for hiking, mountain biking and cross-country skiing. During the winter the trail is also groomed for fat-tire bikes.

**Where**: River Rd., 2 miles west of Oscoda

**Amenities**: Paved parking, toilets and interpretive signs.

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**Legend**
- Ranger Station
- Eagle Run Trail
- Highbanks Trail
- City Points
- Shore To Shore Trail
- Snowmobile & ORV Trail
- Selected MIRoads
- Selected US Roads
- River Road National Scenic Byway
- National Forest Lands

**More Sites to See**

- **10. Lumberman’s Monument and Visitor Center, Monument Campground**
  A 14-foot bronze statue of three lumbermen highlights Michigan’s logging history, which was significant for the development of Michigan economy in the 1800s.

- The statue depicting a “River Rat”, a surveyor and a sawyer was first conceived by R.G. Schreck, former Supervisor of the Huron National Forest. Robert Aitken of New York City was contracted to cast the statue, at a cost of $50,000. The completed monument was dedicated on July 16, 1932.

- The visitor center is a log cabin built in 1982. The building is 16’ by 60’ and was built from a kit by the Forest Service and local volunteers at the same time the outdoor displays, landscaped grounds, picnic areas and paved parking lots were added.

- Interpretive programs are given often during the summer months.

- Monument Campground is rustic and sits in a red pine plantation planted by the Civilian Conservation Corps who operated out of a nearby camp in the 1920s and 1930s. The campground has 20 sites suitable for small travel trailers and RV camping, group camping, water, toilets and grills.

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