Experience the Trail

The Manistee River Trail is an 18 - 24 inch wide trail that begins near Red Bridge on the North side of Coates Highway. The trail follows the east bank of the Manistee River for 10.5 miles to Seaton Creek Campground. As visitors hike the trail they will pass through a variety of vegetation, ranging from pine to deciduous trees, to swamps and cedar seeps. Several spring-fed waterfalls and tributary creeks, as well as beautiful views of the river make this trail one of the most popular on the forest. Campers also enjoy the vast array of wildlife found along this scenic trail.

Two connector trails, located at the southern and northern portions of the trail connect the Manistee River Trail to the North Country National Scenic Trail, making a 22-mile loop.

Camping - Along the trail there are several sites marked by carsonite/fiberglass posts with numbers. You can also camp off trail from these marked by carsonite/fiberglass posts with numbers. Campsites must be at least 100 feet from water and 200 feet from roads and trails.

Seaton Creek Campground, located at the northern end of the trail, is a 17 site campground with drinking water.

Mountain Bikes - Although mountain bikes are allowed on the section of the North Country National Scenic Trail, they are not allowed on the Manistee River Trail. Two connector trails allow mountain bikers to take the 22-mile loop.

Fishing - The river is populated with many types of fish whereas water and jet ski are allowed on the trail.

Float Times

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hodenpyl Dam to Red Bridge</td>
<td>3.5</td>
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Conduct and Ethics

Plan Ahead and Prepare

Bring water or a filtration system with you.

Camp on Durable Surfaces

Campsites must be at least 200 feet from water and 100 feet from roads and trails.

Dispose of Waste Properly

Create waste disposal areas 200 feet from water, camps, and trails.

Minimize Campfire Impacts

Make sure fires are cold to the touch before leaving.

Respect Wildlife

Observe wildlife from a distance.

Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Remove trash when you leave.

Keep noise to a minimum.

Recreation Fees are required at most day-use sites and campgrounds. Check bulletin boards for fees and information.

Contact Information

Email: r9_hmnf_website@fs.fed.us
Website: www.fs.usda.gov/hmnf
Toll Free: 1-800-821-6263
Manistee Ranger Station
Phone: 231-723-2211
TTY: 711-231-723-2211
Supervisor’s Office
Phone: 231-775-2421
TTY: 711-231-775-2421

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United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service

Manistee River
Manistee River Trail and Backwaters

Red Bridge River Access

Manistee River Backwaters

View along the trail