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Lake Superior

Sand River Part 1 of 9

The Sand River drops about 185 m in elevation from Sand Lake to Lake Superior. Along the 56 km route, numerous stretches of fast water, boulder rapids and scenic waterfalls are encountered. Water levels change greatly from month to month and from year to year, so expect to see changes in the river. The upper sections of the river, especially from portages 6-10, involve several kilometres of fairly level, calm water, through numerous meanders and oxbows.

Access: Sand Lake via the Algoma Central Railway To get up-to-date information about fares and train schedules call 1-800-242-9287 or www.agawacanyontourtrain.com.

The train may be taken to one of two points on Sand Lake: mile 138 of the ACR at the north end, or mile 136 1/4 on a bay on the southeast side of the lake. At both ends a short carry is required to put the canoe in the lake. Paddle south to portage 1 at the lake's southernmost end.

To: Take out point on the Sand River Road, 2 km from Highway 17 (approx. 52 km by road from Sault Ste. Marie, or 72 km by road from Wawa)

Length: 56 km; 29 portages (9 to 1100 m; average portage length is 270 m); there is an average of 1 portage every 2 km.

Rapids: These are mostly class 1 and 2 rapids (described below). Although as many as 15 can be run by experienced canoeists, never take unnecessary chances! Walk alongside the rapids first to determine if a clear course can be identified. Portaging the gear and running the rapids with an empty canoe is sometimes a wise course of action. If inexperienced or in doubt, then portage the canoe too.

Class 1: Very easy: waves small, regular passages, clear, and easily navigated

Class 2: Medium difficulty: passages clear though narrow, requiring competent maneuvering – medium

Legend

- Sand River
- Sand Lake
- Park Boundary

Legend

- Designated Campsite
- Algoma Central Railway
- Contour (20 metre or 65.5 ft intervals)
- Canoe Route
- Portage
- Lakes and Large Streams
- Wetlands
- Park Boundary



This map should not be relied on as a precise indicator of routes or locations, nor as a guide to navigation. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) shall not be liable in any way for the use of, or reliance upon, this map or any information on this map.

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