



BUFFALO RIVER

Distance

100 miles from Vanderbilt

Directions

Take 21st Avenue south from Vanderbilt. 21st becomes Hillsboro Road. At a stoplight 11 miles from Vanderbilt, bear to the right onto Old Hillsboro Rd. (Hwy 46). Stay on Hwy 46 for about 10 miles to the town of Leipers Fork. Go through Leipers Fork, and then turn right onto Pinewood Rd. and get on the Natchez Trace. (You'll see signs for the entrance to the Natchez Trace about 2 miles past Leipers Fork). Go south on the Trace for about 45 miles until you get to Hwy 20 heading west towards Hohenwald. Go about 2 miles down Grinder Creek Road and go about 4 miles to Hwy 99. (NOTE: About 2 miles down Grinder Creek Road, you have to make a hairpin turn to the left to avoid getting onto Rush Bridge Road.) Turn left on Hwy 99 and go about 2 miles to the bridge across the Buffalo River. You can drive to within 20 feet of the water by turning left just before you cross the bridge. This is the put-in point.

Description

The Buffalo is a great river to run any time of the year. This river is the most famous float stream in Tennessee and remains completely undammed over its 110 miles. Although most of this river is relatively placid, there are numerous shoals that make the river a challenge for novice paddlers. For the best put-in area, canoeists should avoid the commercialized Flatwoods and put in off the Natchez Trace Parkway. (This section may be low in August, however.) Other than canoeing, visitors at the Buffalo may also want to take a moment to see the abundant aquatic life of the river. The Buffalo contains over 85 species of fish as well as species of turtles and snakes.

Cautions

Canoeists should be aware of the strainers and deadfalls in the river.

For More Information

Consult [Canoeing in Tennessee](#) by Holly Sherwin. You can also call Natchez Trace Parkway Tourist Information at 1-800-305-7417. Outfitters at the Buffalo River include Clearwater Canoe, Inc. (931) 722-3081; Buffalo River Canoe Rental (931) 589-2755; Buffalo Canoeing & Campground (931) 796-3622; Crazy Horse Canoe Rental & R.V. Park 1-800-722-5213; and Hartland Canoe Rental, Inc. (931) 296-1306.