

## Camping



Camping is permitted along the river, unless otherwise posted. Keep the river clean by carrying out everything you bring in, including fishing line and cigarette butts. Carry out extra trash whenever possible.

- \* Respect the rights of private property owners; don't camp or trespass on private land.
- \* The water in the New River and its tributaries is not safe to drink; bring your own drinking water.
- \* Camp at least 100 feet from the nearest water source.
- \* Washing should be done away from the river. Minimize your use of soaps—even biodegradable soaps are pollutants.
- \* Bury human waste 300 feet from the nearest water source.
- \* Build fires only where fire pits already exist.
- \* Burn only dead wood that is on the ground.

## Selected River Trips

### Hinton to Sandstone Falls

*Distance Varies – Several Hours to ½ Day*

This popular section provides several easily reached river access locations, and offers great scenery in a less remote setting. Paddlers should approach Brooks Falls with caution. **Sandstone Falls is a required portage.**

### Meadow Creek to McCreery

*13 miles – ½ Day to 2 Days*

This section consists of easy riffles and shoals as well as several Class III rapids, and is among the most isolated stretches of the New River. Few roads reach the river in this section, which makes for good fishing and camping trips.

### McCreery to Stone Cliff

*13 miles – ½ Day to 2 Days*

This section is popular for both day and overnight trips, as well as for fishing trips. It has several long pools, but also contains some challenging intermediate whitewater, particularly at higher water levels.

## River Level Information

River levels vary based on seasonal factors, as well as weather patterns. Comparison levels given in Cubic Feet per Second (CFS):

	Low	Medium	High
CFS	<2500	4500	>10,000

## Telephone

### Army Corps of Engineers

Recorded Message: (304) 466-0156

### United States Geologic Survey

Automated Hinton Gauge: (304) 466-3710

Automated Thurmond Gauge: (304) 465-0493

## Internet

### Army Corps of Engineers

<http://www.lrh-wc.usace.army.mil/wc/whitewater.html>

### United States Geologic Survey

<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/wv/nwis/current/?type=flow>

### New River Gorge National River

<http://www.nps.gov/neri>

## Regulations

- \* While boating, each person must have a Coast Guard-approved PFD (life jacket).
- \* Fishing and hunting are permitted in accordance with state laws.
- \* Littering and other damage to the park is strictly prohibited.
- \* Trespassing on CSX railroad tracks or access roads is prohibited.
- \* Possession of firearms, except during hunting season, is prohibited.
- \* Public intoxication, disorderly conduct, and possession of alcohol by minors are prohibited.

National Park Service Rangers and West Virginia Conservation Officers patrol the river and provide emergency assistance.

## Safe Paddling Tips



- \* Always wear a life jacket/ PFD (Personal Floatation Device).
- \* Floatation is recommended for open canoes.
- \* Check the river level and weather forecast before your trip. High water can make rapids much larger, and rescue extremely difficult. Low water exposes more rocks, and makes rapids more technical.
- \* Beware of hypothermia! Cold water and cool, windy weather can be a fatal combination. Be prepared for weather changes.
- \* If you capsize—don't panic! Float on your back, feet first. Never try to stand in moving water.
- \* Alcohol is a factor in most drownings.
- \* Don't overestimate your swimming ability.
- \* Wear shoes to protect your feet against glass, fishhooks, and sharp rocks.
- \* Scout unfamiliar rapids from shore.
- \* Kneel to provide stability when running rapids in a canoe.

## Sandstone Falls

Sandstone Falls is a required portage—boaters should be prepared to take out above the falls. Several drownings and serious accidents have occurred at these falls.



Sandstone Falls is located about two miles below Brooks Island. Warning signs are located on both sides of the river one-half mile above the falls, and the takeout on river left is identified by signs on the left bank.

## Emergency – call 911



### New River Gorge National River

P. O. Box 246  
Glen Jean, WV 25846  
(304) 465-0508  
<http://www.nps.gov/neri>



**New River Gorge**  
National River  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## Paddling the New River Hinton to Thurmond

New River Gorge is known for its variety of whitewater. The section from Hinton to Thurmond offers challenging Class I, II, and III rapids suitable for intermediate whitewater paddlers, and consists primarily of long pools and moderate rapids. The New River is a powerful river, is very beautiful, and almost always has enough water to run.

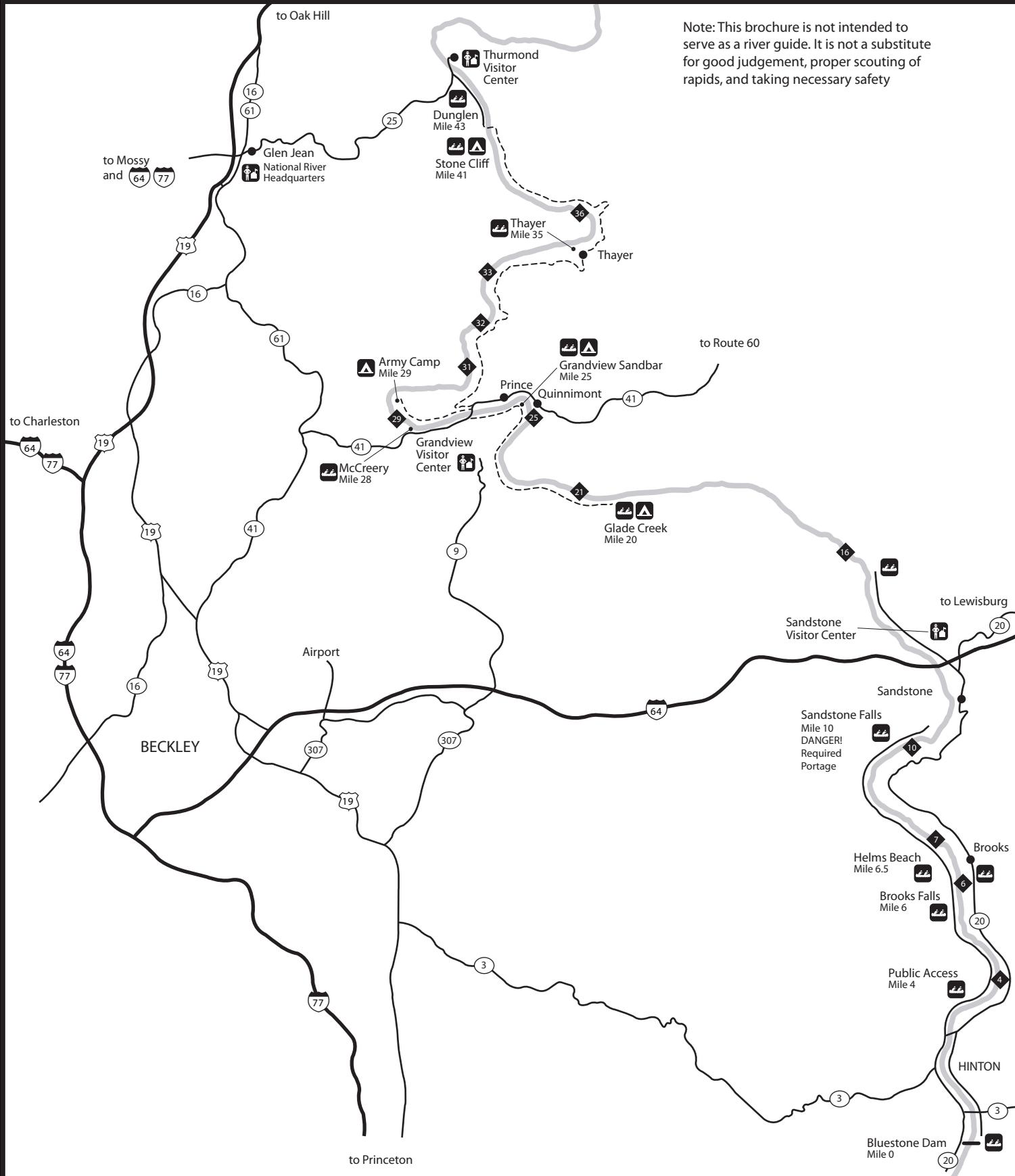
There are a number of different river access points, and trips can run from several hours to several days. The Hinton to Thurmond section of river provides excellent fishing and overnight camping. It is an enjoyable trip for intermediate canoeists and kayakers, but is not recommended for beginners!

Downstream from Thurmond the river narrows and includes technical Class IV–V rapids. The New River below Thurmond is suitable only for advanced and expert paddlers. Commercial outfitters offer guided raft trips on all sections of the river. This brochure is not intended as a substitute for experience—whitewater paddling requires different skills and equipment than flatwater paddling. For more information, call:

Park Headquarters (304) 465-0508  
Sandstone Visitor Center (304) 466-0417  
Canyon Rim Visitor Center (304) 574-2115

# PADDLING THE NEW RIVER — Hinton to Thurmond

Note: This brochure is not intended to serve as a river guide. It is not a substitute for good judgement, proper scouting of rapids, and taking necessary safety



## International Scale of River Difficulty

From the Safety Code of the American Whitewater Affiliation

**Class I: Easy.** Fast moving water with riffles and small waves. Few obstructions, all obvious and easily missed with little training. Risk to swimmers is slight; self-rescue is easy.

**Class II: Novice.** Straightforward rapids with wide, clear channels which are evident without scouting. Occasional maneuvering may be required, but rocks and medium-sized waves are easily missed by trained paddlers. Swimmers are seldom injured and group assistance, while helpful, is seldom needed.

**Class III: Intermediate.** Rapids with moderate, irregular waves which may be difficult to avoid and which can swamp an open canoe. Complex maneuvers in fast current and good boat control in tight passages or around ledges are often required; large waves or strainers may be present but are easily avoided. Strong eddies and powerful current effects can be found, particularly on large-volume rivers. Scouting is advisable for inexperienced parties. Injuries while swimming are rare; self-rescue is usually easy but group assistance may be required to avoid long swims.

## Rapids and Ratings

Mile	Rapid Name	Rating
4	Tug Creek Rapid	Class II
6	Brooks Falls	Class III
7	Brooks Ledges	Class II
10	Sandstone Falls	Portage
16	Rocky Rapid	Class II
21	Grassy Shoals	Class III
25	Quinnimont	Class III
28	McCreery	Class II
31	White House	Class II
32	Dowdy Creek	Class II
33	Ledges	Class III
36	Silo	Class III

River mileages noted here begin at Bluestone Dam in Hinton, and go downstream. All river mileages are approximate.



- River Access
- Ranger Station
- Primitive Camping
- New River
- Divided Highway
- Paved Road
- Gravel Road