

# West Central Adirondack Canoe & Kayak Route



Mile 0.0 – Use the docks next to the Town of Webb Visitor Center on Route 28 in Old Forge to launch. The Visitor Center can supply you with a NYS DEC map and trip description. They also can help you with long-term parking. The dam to the left of the launching site, originally constructed in 1799, holds back some 6.8 million gallons of water. In front of the dam is a covered bridge used by snowmobiles in the winter.

Mile 2.1 – The end of the narrow channel is at Indian Point. As First Lake opens up you'll see a line of white obstruction markers to your right. You can safely paddle to the right of these markers, which will keep you away from the majority of powerboats. About .6 miles ahead is the marked channel leading to Second Lake. On your left, is a point of land and on your right, is Treasure Island. This island is NYS owned. No camping is allowed, but there is a public outhouse on the far end of the island.

Mile 2.7 – Entering Third Lake your course is right down the middle of the lake. About half way across the lake, you'll pick up the red/green channel markers. To your left you'll see the Bald Mountain Fire Tower situated on a large escarpment. At the end of Third Lake you'll enter a narrow, fairly shallow channel. Should you meet a large boat, like the Clearwater from Old Forge Lake Cruises, be sure and give way. They need all of the channel.

Mile 4.0 – Just as you leave the Third/Fourth Lake channel you'll see a small sign on your right, which directs you to the sign-in location for Alger Island (Big Island) which is straight ahead of you. If you are staying on the island, you must check-in at a Ranger Station on the mainland. Your course is to pass Alger Island and then keep right until you near the channel to Fifth Lake. You see a diversity of Adirondack "camps" on this leg of the trip. There are big nouveau homes, clear-cut, with lawns down to the water, dish antennas on the waterfront, and jet skis tied to the dock. You will also see some spectacularly beautiful traditionally built camps set back from the lake. As you near the end of the lake you'll spot the red/green channel markers off to your left. Immediately as you enter the channel you'll see a boardwalk on your left. This is the entrance to the Arrowhead Park and the

downtown of Inlet. Arrowhead Park has picnic tables and bathrooms, and the Inlet Information Center is located at the head of the park. There are restaurants, camping & supply stores, ice cream, places to stay, and groceries available here.

Mile 11.4 – The channel to Fifth Lake and Fifth Lake itself are less than one half mile long. At the end of Fifth Lake is your first carry. Just go to your left up a small hill to Route 28, turn right up a short hill past a convenient store to the marked crossing of Route 28 onto Sixth Lake Road. Use caution there can be a good amount of traffic on Route 28. It's a short walk down the Sixth Lake Road to the put-in.

Mile 12.8 - Sixth Lake is less than a mile long. Like Fourth Lake, Seventh Lake is large enough to be quite windy so use caution. All the campsites are on the left or north side of the lake and this is the best course to take until you see the entrance to Eighth Lake Campground, slightly to your right. The carry through the campground is about a mile long but is flat and on a paved road. Restrooms along the way.

Mile 16.8 – On Eighth Lake all the campsites are on the left or north-west shore. At the end of the lake is the 1.3 mile carry to Brown's Tract Inlet. This carry is the highest point in the entire canoe route to Fort Kent, Maine at 1825 ft. However, the vertical on the carry is only a few feet. The forest has large hemlock, beech, birch, many ferns, and is generally a very pretty and well-shaded carry. There is an outhouse before the put-in which is a very narrow, slippery dock. Be careful. The Brown's Tract Inlet stream has a number of beaver dams you must get past. Often there is a sluiceway in the middle of the dam and if the water is high enough you can push your way over the dam. If not, you must get out of the boat, stand on the dam and pull your boat over. The bottom is very muddy and if you fall in you can get caught in mud up to your waist.

Mile 22.7 – As you paddle under the bridge entering Raquette Lake there may be a beaver dam. Check it out before you try to go over it. The water here can be quite swift. As you enter the lake, the village is around to your left. There is a general store here where you can restock.

Raquette Lake is large and infamous for being windy. Be sure of your course before you cross. The Golden Beach campground is about 3.5 miles ahead on your right. It's about 2.5 miles to the campsites on the north side of Lonesome Bay, and only about 1.3 miles to the sites on Big Island. It's about 3.3 miles to the Tioga Point campground. On Long Point is the site of the Catholic St. Williams Church and an associated non-profit B&B, and on St. Hubert's Island is a beautiful Episcopal church. Your basic course across Raquette is north until you turn easterly at Bluff Point. This can be a very windy spot. After you reach Bluff Point you are in Outlet Bay and there are several campsites on the north shore. It's about four miles from Bluff Point to the portage to Forked Lake.

Mile 29.5 - The carry to Forked Lake is ½ mile. Forked Lake is mostly privately owned but there are no houses in sight and it is a lovely lake. Notice on your right the cedar tree branches that are all browsed by deer to the exact same height. Keep to the right until you come to the Forked Lake Boat Launch and Campground. Caution; just before you reach the campground is a series of rock piles and some shallow rocky water. Speak to the caretaker about tent sites.

Mile 33.5 – Forked Lake to Raquette River. This 1.5 mile portage is on a road and mostly downhill. You are portaging past some Class II-III rapids on the Raquette. The trail down to the river is on your left and is well marked. At the put in spot is a lean-to. The next mile is flat and a pretty stretch of the river.

Mile 36.3 – Buttermilk Falls. A short, .1 mile, portage on your right. This is a great photo spot. After the portage you paddle about ½ mile and portage about ½ mile around the last set of rapids. At the put-in are two lean-to's.

Mile 40 – Long Lake. After the put-in it is about ½ mile to the head of the lake and a little more than 5 miles to the Route 30 Bridge. Just after the bridge is the Long Lake Town Beach, then the seaplane base and then the NYS Boat Launch is about ¾ miles ahead. At Long Lake you'll find a post office, general store, outfitters, ice cream parlors, restaurants and places to stay.

**Inlet Information Office**  
160 Route 28, PO Box 266  
Inlet, NY 13360  
315-357-5501  
1-866-GO INLET  
Fax: 315-357-3570  
Tourism: [InletNY.com](http://InletNY.com)  
Government: [TownofInlet.org](http://TownofInlet.org)  
Facebook: [Inlet, NY Information & Events](https://www.facebook.com/InletNYInformation&Events)  
[info@inletny.com](mailto:info@inletny.com)

