



STURGEON RIVER TRIP INFORMATION

With an average descent of 14 feet per mile, the Sturgeon River is the **fastest** river in Michigan's Lower Peninsula! Not whitewater, but exciting and challenging with its quick and often tricky current, along w/ leaning trees, stumps, and logs (especially when navigating through numerous narrow passages and sharp turns!) The current does most of the work, but it's up to you and/or your partner(s) to maneuver your watercraft down the crystal-clear, spring-fed stream, as it winds its way mostly through beautiful state forest. The average depth is 3-4 feet, however, there are deeper pools that can reach 5-8 feet, usually around the outside of bends. Plan on getting wet as many of our guests take an unplanned "refreshing" dunk! (approx. 80% tip-over rate for canoes/kayaks on longer trips, 0% for Rafts) Various types of paddlers can enjoy this exhilarating adventure as long as close attention is paid to the **type** of equipment used as well as the **section** and/or **length** of the river trip.

PLEASE SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR MORE IMPORTANT TRIP INFO, DEPARTURES & FLOAT TIMES!

ALL RIVER TRIP RATES INCLUDE:

- U.S. Coast Guard approved and safety-inspected quality equipment
- Paddles and PFD's (comfortable Type III Lifevest)
- Shuttle service to the put-in point (most trips end at Burt Lake State Park, which has a great swimming beach!) See "Ending Point/Parking"

River Hours & Reservations:
 9:00 am - 7:00 pm
 (231) 238-8181
www.bigbearadventures.com

For Families / Beginners / Less Experienced:

RAFTS



For the ultimate in stability and family/group adventure, try our 5-person and 7-person rafts. Made of extremely durable Hypalon, these are the same rafts used on major whitewater rivers (but of course, there is NO whitewater). The river does most of the work as far as taking you downstream, but it's up to you and your crew to work together and steer/ navigate your Raft down the narrow passages & around obstacles. Rafts are spacious, relaxing, comfortable, and promote TEAMWORK. They also decrease your chance of accidentally getting wet - a real relief for those with young ones! Trips end in beautiful Burt Lake State Park — swim, picnic, play!

Sorry, NO Pets or large, heavy coolers in rafts, and NO 7-person Rafts on the 3½-4 hr trip.

Approx. Float time	1 hr	2 hr	3½ - 4 hr
Price Per Person	\$17	\$24	\$34
Departures	9-5:30 pm Every ½ hr	9-5 pm Every ½ hr	9-2:30 pm Every ½ hr

Recommended for: all ages (young to the young at heart!) and all skill levels (beginner to advanced). Wonderful **group** or **family** activity! We recommend the shortest trip for **extremely** young children and the longest trip only for older and/or more adventurous, experienced paddlers.
Raft Rates: are per person. During the summer season there is a minimum of 4 paid people in the 5-person rafts and 6 paid people in the 7-person rafts.
1 child age 5 & under allowed to go FREE per raft!

TUBES

What's the best way to spend a hot, sunny afternoon in beautiful Northern Michigan? Floating on a tube down a crystal-clear, refreshing river! River Tubing (aka: "Rump-Bumping") is a wet and extremely fun (often times hilarious) group adventure!



Recommended for: all ages and skill levels as long as they are comfortable and confident in, on, and around water. Tubing is best on a sunny day that's at least 70 degrees. We recommend the short trip for young children!! *Please Note: Tubes go slower than everything else, so a 2 hr. Raft trip will take 2.5 hours by Tube.*

Tube Rates: are per person (based on 1 person per tube, although a very small child can sit on a lap for free).

Approx. Float time	1½ hr	2½ hr
Price Per Person	\$14	\$18
Departures	9:30-6 pm Every ½ hr	9:30-4:30 pm Every ½ hr

Cooler Tubes are available for same price per person!

CATS

Combine the thrill of kayaking, the camaraderie of canoeing, and the stability of a raft, and you end up with a Cat. Short for "Catamaran", our Cats are an inflatable tandem kayak with less chance of tipping over than canoes/kayaks. The sleek, yet "wide-track" design is fun and easy to paddle. Also comes with comfortable, inflatable backrests.



Please Note: Cats are best on warm days as there may be a little bit of water where you're sitting.

Recommended for: Two paddlers w/ basic paddling experience, who are willing to accept a challenge, but don't quite fit into the other equipment categories (not enough canoeing experience, don't want to try a solo kayak, or too small a group to fill a raft). 3, 4 & 5 hour trips: experienced only!

Cat Rates: are per person (based on 2 people, which is the maximum).

Approx. Float time	1½ hr	3 hr	4 hr	5 hr
Price Per Person	\$24	\$34	\$37	\$40
Departures	9-5:00 pm Every ½ hr	9-3:30 pm Every ½ hr	9:30-2:30 Every hour	9:30-11:30 Every hour

For More Experienced / More Adventurous:

CANOES / TANDEM KAYAKS

We feature 16'9" Old Town "Discovery" Canoes, made of tough, high-density polyethylene with contoured seats. Stable, maneuverable, and well suited to the technical demands of the Sturgeon River. Our 14' Old-Town Tandem Kayaks offer a larger cockpit for easier entry and exit.



Recommended for: Paddlers with experience and an adventurous attitude! (Not young children—especially on longer trips)

Canoe/Tandem Kayak Rates: are per person, based on double occupancy. **CANOES:** Maximum 3 people; Middle Riders are an additional \$7.00

Approx. Float time	1½ hr	3 hr	4 hr	5 hr
Price Per Person	\$24	\$32	\$35	\$39
Departures	9-5 pm Every ½ hr	9-3:30 pm Every ½ hr	9:30-2:30 Every hour	9:30-11:30 Every hour

KAYAKS / SOLO CANOES

Comfortable, lightweight, easy to paddle, and fun to use, we offer 9'6" Old Town "Otter" Kayaks. With its short length, it is highly maneuverable and features a large, open cockpit for easy entry and exit. For paddlers between 225-275 lbs, we offer a 11'1" Loon Kayak, and for those between 275-380 lbs, we offer a 13'8" Loon Kayak, both for extra stability. We also offer an 11'9" Solo Canoe w/ a center seat.



Recommended for: confident thrill-seekers with basic paddling experience (not young children), or groups with odd numbers.

Kayak/Solo Canoe Rates: are per person, one person per kayak/solo canoe.

Approx. Float time	1½ hr	3 hr	4 hr	5 hr
Price Per Person	\$26	\$38	\$43	\$45
Departures	9-5 pm Every ½ hr	9-3:30 pm Every ½ hr	9:30-2:30 Every hour	9:30-11:30 Every hour

ENDING POINT in BURT LAKE STATE PARK

All River Trips end inside Burt Lake State Park! The designated ending point is located on the Sturgeon River inside the Park. This landing has a set of wooden stairs with Big Bear signage and is where you must turn in your equipment. Ending here allows for a short 4 minute walk back to your vehicle near the beach. Burt Lake State Park offers over 2,000 feet of sandy beach and crystal-clear water (great for swimming and playing) and a large, day-use picnic area under towering oak and pine trees. There's a picnic pavilion, tables, grills, play-ground equipment, a beach volleyball court, horseshoes, baseball diamond and a 1-mile wooded hiking trail!



PARKING

After signing up for your river trip, we will direct you to park your vehicle in the State Park right near the beach/picnic area where you have access to the park and its amenities all day! Be sure to carpool in order to bring the least amount of vehicles as possible. All paddlers are required to park **all vehicles** in the state park where there is no waiting at the end of your trip; your vehicle is ready w/ towels, beach toys, and picnic supplies, and most importantly, it's a wonderful way to finish your river adventure—swimming, relaxing, and playing at one of Northern Michigan's most beautiful state parks! Any vehicle that goes into a state park needs a "Recreation Passport". If you don't already have a passport, you can purchase one from the state park for \$16, motorcycles are \$11 (good ALL YEAR at ALL STATE PARKS!) Vehicles with out-of-state license plates must purchase a daily permit for \$9 (or an annual pass for \$32). For more detailed information regarding parking at Burt Lake State Park, please visit www.michigan.gov/recreationpassport
Please Note: Only Tubers leave their vehicles at Big Bear!

CHALLENGING "MID-SECTION" TRIP!

We offer a "Mid-Section" trip for those who want the faster, most challenging part of the river, but don't necessarily want or have the time to do the Wolverine (5 hr.) trip, and/or wouldn't mind skipping the last 1 1/2 hrs. of the river (which is the easier section, has more homes/cottages, and at peak times more congested w/ rafts and tubes). This trip ends at N. White Rd, which is the most commonly used put-in point (and which we own). This trip is definitely for more advanced paddlers!



Put-In/ Take-Out	Rondo Access to N. White Rd	Wolverine to N. White Rd
Approx. Float Time	2-2 1/2 hr	3 1/2 hr
Canoe / Tandem Kayak Rate/person	\$37	\$41
Kayak Rate/person	\$45	\$47
Cat/Big Green/person	\$39	\$42

WALK-INS/RESERVATIONS

Trips are available 7 days a week, May through mid-October (please call ahead May and October weekdays). Walk-ins are welcome, most of our guests are simply walk-ins and we are able to accommodate them on a "first come, first served" basis. However, please try to keep in mind that our busiest time is between 11:30 am and 1:30 pm. Earlier trips tend to see the most wildlife and fewest people. Although we have ample amounts of watercraft and transportation vehicles, there may be some unavoidable delays due to heavy volume at key times and/or on weekends. It's always best to come in the morning if possible.

To avoid disappointment, advance reservations are recommended, and are available only for trips departing @ 11:00 am or earlier. We cannot hold equipment past this time. For these guaranteed reservations, a credit card is required (Visa, Mastercard, or Discover).

Cancellation Policy: Our policy on guaranteed reservations is a 72 hour cancellation notice. If a last minute cancellation is unavoidable and we are unable to re-rent the watercraft, your credit card will be charged for the rental.

LIABILITY AND SAFETY



For over 35 years, Big Bear Adventures has provided quality river trips for thousands of people, with an excellent safety record. Still, any river adventure will involve inherent risks and dangers, and can be physically demanding. We will ask you to assume the responsibility for many decisions affecting your safety. Our trips require varying degrees of fitness, and you must evaluate your fitness for any given trip. Big Bear Adventures assumes NO responsibility for injury to you or your personal property. All guests take the trip at their own risk and are required to read, understand, and sign an agreement to participate/liability release.

WEATHER/WATER CONDITIONS: Big Bear Adventures reserves the right to change trip format, move trips to a different section of the river, or to another river if necessary due to weather conditions, water fluctuations, or other factors beyond our control. It is unlikely, but should we cancel a trip completely, we will refund your deposit. Such a refund will be limited to the actual deposit paid, and will not cover any other costs incurred by the guest. We reserve the right to turn away, at the livery or the put-in-point, any guest who we feel is not well-suited to the rigors of a particular Big Bear river trip.

ESTIMATED FLOAT TIMES

Trips depart every 1/2 hour from Memorial Day-Labor Day (Every hour otherwise). For most trips, we shuttle you and your equipment to your desired starting point and then you paddle back to the State Park where your car is conveniently parked. That is one of the best features of the trip: you can enjoy yourself and take as much time as you want - stop and swim, have a picnic lunch (no glass containers, Styrofoam coolers, jumbo coolers, or alcohol!) sun yourself, etc., just as long as you respect private property and are back by 7:00 pm. **Extremely important! Please understand that there are many factors that can dramatically effect the approximate float time of our trips:** the type of equipment used, the section of the river, the current river level/conditions, and the individual paddler. Our estimated float times are based on average conditions by average paddlers. We cannot, under any circumstances, guarantee exactly how long a particular trip will take everyone. Everyone and every trip is different.

TRIP DEPARTURE TIMES

In order to maintain prompt departure times for our guests, it is required that everyone in your group **arrive 30 minutes prior to your desired departure time**. This allows us time to load equipment, and you time to change into proper attire and park your vehicle. Be sure to remove and store all valuable jewelry and personal property. You can spend as much time on the river as you like. However, all equipment must be returned by 7:00 pm or late charges will apply. Please allow yourself ample time. Please note the latest departure time available for each trip.



ALCOHOL POLICY

We strongly discourage the use of alcohol in any of our rental equipment or vehicles. The Sturgeon River is a technical, narrow, winding river and demands attention while paddling. We LOVE sober paddlers! It is **unlawful** to operate a watercraft while intoxicated. Big Bear reserves the right to turn away any guest at any time, who appears to be intoxicated, with no refund issued. Although we don't regularly check small coolers, we do reserve the right to inspect coolers (large coolers are prohibited as well as glass or Styrofoam of any kind), bags, etc. taken on a river trip. Save the celebration for after the trip while telling stories around the campfire!



GROUP RATES

We love groups!! Special discounted rates are available for youth groups (church, schools, and scouts) and adult groups (church, corporate, reunions). We offer packages that can include: Raft, Tube, Canoe, Kayak, and Cat trips, packed "SUBWAY" lunches, 18-Hole Adventure Golf, Ropes Course, and Bumper Boats! In order to receive discounted rates, reservations are **required** in advance. Lodging is available at motels, cabins, and campgrounds-many with group facilities. Please ask for Group Rates and info or check out our website @ www.bigbearadventures.com.

EQUIPMENT SECURITY DEPOSIT

A security deposit will be collected prior to any river trip. This can be done w/ a signed, credit card imprint. It will be refunded when all equipment (from the entire group) is returned in good condition, and prior to 7:00 pm, which is our river equipment closing time.



POSSIBLE EXTRA CHARGES

Lost or damaged Canoes, Kayaks, Rafts, Tubes, Cats, paddles, PFD's (cushions or vests), and any other equipment issued by Big Bear Adventures will be charged to the guest at repair cost or replacement cost (whichever is lower), and the equipment security deposit from the group will be held until the claim is satisfied. In addition, pick up of guests and/or watercraft failing to complete designated trip will be charged a retrieval fee of \$45/hour. It is highly recommended that participants in this situation accompany staff in locating the equipment (unless manager requires). A \$10 late charge per watercraft will be charged starting at 7:01 pm sharp as well as an additional \$10 per watercraft for every 1/2 hour thereafter.

HAUL-IT-YOURSELF RENTALS

This program provides an excellent opportunity for you to rent an aluminum Canoe, Solo Kayak, or Tube (sorry, no Old Town Canoes, Tandem Kayaks, Rafts or Cats) and transport it yourself to and from a nearby lake, beach, or stream. Equipment must be rented &/or returned between the hours of 8:30 am & 7:00 pm. Requires signed, open-ended credit card slip for security equipment deposit. Prices are per watercraft. 24 hours \$35; 2 days \$59; 3 days \$69; Monday-Friday \$79; Full week (7 days) \$99. "Haul-it-Yourself" tube rentals are available \$12 per tube, due back by 10am next day. **Area delivery to cottage or house available for additional fee.



OUTFITTER SHOP/GENERAL STORE



We offer a complete line of paddling-related accessories, gear, and clothing. From head to toe, we can outfit the river enthusiast with hats, t-shirts, shorts, and river shoes, as well as sunglasses, eyeglass straps, hat clips, waterproof bags & cameras, canoeing & outdoor books, sunscreen, and bug repellent. We also have a full SUBWAY sandwich shop on premises, snacks, and drinks available. You can enjoy your food at our picnic tables or take something w/you on your trip.

SPOTTING/SHUTTLE SERVICE

We provide transportation for guests and their privately-owned equipment to various locations on the river. Please ask for specifics on "Spotting/Shuttle Services".

WINTER ACTIVITIES

Experience the breathtaking beauty and solitude of Winter on our Guided Winter Raft trips!

Our knowledgeable staff will guide you on a fun and narrative 1 1/2 hour trip, offering you an excellent opportunity to see wildlife in their natural habitat. Snowshoe and X-C Ski Rentals are also available with wonderful trails right nearby! Visit our website for more detailed information!

~ As featured in Midwest Living and Michigan Out Of Doors ~



Voted "Outside" Magazine's "40 Frozen Experiences of a Lifetime"!