

MAP LEGEND

See reverse side for detailed listings

Information

River Access Points

River Gauge

Civil War Sites

Overmountain Victory Trail

Mountains-to-Sea Trail

Upper Yadkin Byway

Leaf to Vine Scenic Byway

N.C. Bike Route 2

N.C. Bike Route 4

Surry Scenic Bikeway

MAP TERMS & DEFINITIONS

**Yadkin River State Trail**  
A designated Blue Trail that begins at W. Kerr Scott Reservoir and flows to the Uwharrie River where it turns into the Pee Dee River.

**Mile Marker**  
Assigned to a river access based on the closest whole mile. Mileage starts at the confluence of the Uwharrie and Yadkin Rivers and increases as one travels up stream.

**River Access**  
A developed area where public boaters are allowed to access the river.

**River Junction**  
An area, often the public right-of-way, where roads and bridges connect to the water. May be used for drop-off access only. Vehicles must stay within the public right-of-way and not trespass on private property.

**Navigation Areas of Interest**  
Locations in the river where a boat must navigate some type of obstacle. These obstacles change and vary based on the flow of the river.

INFORMATION

riverfacts.com

yadkinriverkeeper.org

americanwhitewater.org

Camping

**W. Kerr Scott Reservoir**  
reserveamerica.com

**Crater Park**  
336.258.8917

**Yadkin Shores Access**  
336.849.7909

**Pilot Mountain State Park**  
336.444.5100

Streamflow

waterdata.usgs.gov

River Gauge

For information on current river levels:

waterdata.usgs.gov

FUNDING PROVIDED BY

Golden LEAF FOUNDATION

Rural Center

Part of the part of the

BLUERIDGE NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

GOyadkinvalley.com

it starts with a river...





Photo: Sam Deam



Located in northwestern North Carolina within an easy day's drive of anywhere in the state, the Yadkin Valley commences at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains and sprawls eastward into the Piedmont.



Photo: Sam Deam



## explore. engage. experience.

The natural beauty of the Yadkin River Valley and the experience of enjoying a float trip along the Yadkin River or one of its tributaries makes the region a fun-filled destination for paddlers.

On the upper section of the river activities include canoeing and kayaking the Class I to Class IV rapids and fly fishing for trout. The sections of river below W. Kerr Scott Dam in Wilkes County and then flowing down through Surry and Yadkin Counties contain rapids rated at Class I and II and are ideal for easy float trips by canoe, kayak, or even paddleboard.

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## it starts with a river...

- fishing
- canoeing
- kayaking
- rafting
- tubing
- picnicking
- camping

## map your river adventure.

The Yadkin River Valley region, designated as the Yadkin Valley Heritage Corridor, is located in the beautiful rolling foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Here you'll find a thriving, vibrant area with charming, historic small towns and stunning vistas teeming with outdoor recreational opportunities.

With scenic waterfalls and lush native plants and wildlife along the riverbanks, you'll find the Yadkin Valley offers abundant opportunities to connect with and enjoy the outdoors.

Whether you're looking for a day float trip or a weekend excursion, plan your Yadkin River adventure with our map to help you easily locate your destination as well as nearby amenities, activities, and points of interest.

## it starts with a river.

The Yadkin River and its tributaries offer an abundance of river-based recreation through the four-county region of Caldwell, Wilkes, Surry, and Yadkin Counties in North Carolina.

From its headwaters near the Blue Ridge Parkway's Thunder Hill Overlook, the Yadkin River flows over 200 miles southeast into South Carolina, making it one of the longest rivers in North Carolina.

Cover photo: Julian Charles  
Fly fishing, waterfall and biking photos courtesy of Tourism Partnership of Surry County



play it safe

- Before taking your first boat trip, learn the basics
- Plan your trip carefully, stay off flooded rivers
- Wear an approved personal flotation device (PFD)
- Never boat alone
- Do not overload your boat
- Carry a map and emergency phone numbers
- Share your river location and return time
- Carry a first aid kit, repair kit, and flashlight
- Take sunscreen, insect repellent, sunglasses, brimmed hat
- Take rain gear, change of clothes

play it safe

- Wear non-slip shoes
- Tie an extra paddle to the boat
- Secure a 10' painter line to the bow and stern
- Place food, clothes, etc., in containers tied to the boat
- Be aware of weather conditions and risks
- Avoid downed trees and strainers
- Use portage trail around dams
- Complete your trip before dark (2-3 miles per hour boating in normal conditions; twice as long for tubing)
- Plan your shuttle
- Do not trespass on private property

play it safe

**Know the Conditions** Check the weather forecast and never paddle during flood conditions. Be aware that hypothermia is possible even in warm weather if the water is cold. A good rule of thumb is that if the water temperature plus the air temperature is less than 100 degrees Fahrenheit, then hypothermia may occur.

**Avoid Downed Trees and Strainers** Downed trees and strainers are a dangerous hazard on any river. Avoid paddling close to a downed tree or any structure that could trap you between the object and your boat.

**Respect Property** The rivers are public but flow through private property. Do not trespass, abuse, or litter the waters, banks, or shorelines. Collect your refuse and dispose of properly when your trip is over. Do not cut or damage plant life on the riverbanks. Refer to the public access point shown on the brochure map.

## information

- Yadkin Valley Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center**  
257 Standard Street, Elkin, NC 28621  
336-526-1111 [ExploreElkin.com](#)
- Mount Airy Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center**  
200 North Main Street, Mount Airy, NC 27030  
336-786-6116 [mountairyncchamber.org](#)
- Wilkes Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center**  
717 Main Street, North Wilkesboro, NC 28659  
336-838-8662 [ExploreWilkes.com](#)
- Northwest North Carolina Visitor Center**  
2121 East Highway 421, North Wilkesboro, NC 28659  
336-667-1259 [wilkescountytourism.com](#)
- Yadkin County Chamber & Visitor Center**  
205 S. Jackson Street, Yadkinville, NC 27055  
336-679-2200 [yadkinchamber.org](#)
- Jonesville Welcome Center**  
1503 NC Highway 67, Jonesville, NC 28642  
336-835-2000 [visittheyadkinvalley.com](#)
- I-77N North Carolina Welcome Center**  
Southbound I-77 Milepost 105, Dobson, NC 27017  
336-320-2181 [visitnc.com](#)
- Caldwell County Chamber & Visitor Information Center**  
1909 Hickory Boulevard SE, Lenoir, NC 28645  
828-726-0616 [caldwellchambernc.com](#)
- Pilot Mountain Visitor Center**  
124 W. Main Street, Pilot Mountain, NC 27041  
336-368-2247 [ncparks.gov](#)

- information
- river access
- picnicking
- hiking
- camping
- biking
- lodging
- dining
- restrooms
- outdoor outfitters
- scenic area
- water activities
- fishing
- disc golf
- historic site
- parking

## YADKIN RIVER RUNS

- W. Kerr Scott Tailwater Access to Smoot Park**
- Smoot Park to Roaring River Community Access**
- Roaring River Community Access to Ronda Access**
- Ronda Access to Crater Park Access**
- Crater Park Access to Burch Station Access**
- Burch Station at Mitchell River Access to Yadkin Shores Access**
- Yadkin Shores Access to Shoals Access**
- Shoals Access to Donnaha Access**
- Donnaha Access to Old 421 Access**
- Old 421 Access to Huntsville Access**
- Huntsville Access**

## YADKIN RIVER TRIBUTARY RUNS

- Upper Yadkin River**
- Yadkin River from Patterson to W. Kerr Scott Reservoir**
- Buffalo Creek**
- Elk Creek**
- Lewis Fork Creek - North and South Prongs**
- Reddies River**
- Roaring River**
- Mitchell River**
- Fisher River**
- Ararat River**



**Trout Waters**  
Many streams offer excellent opportunities for trout fishing such as:

**Upper Yadkin River**  
**Buffalo Creek**  
**Lewis Fork Creek**  
**Elk Creek**  
**Stoney Fork Creek**  
**Reddies River**  
**Roaring River**  
**Big Elk Creek**  
**Mitchell River**  
**Ararat River**  
...and other smaller streams

**Delayed Harvest**  
October 1 until the first Saturday in June  
Only single-hook artificial lures, no possession. All other times hatchery-supported regulations apply.

**Hatchery Supported**  
First Saturday in April until last day in February  
No lure or size restrictions. Seven fish daily limit.

**The Blue Ridge Parkway**  
Hatchery supported streams on the Blue Ridge Parkway are stocked by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission but are regulated by the Blue Ridge Parkway. To check the current regulations for the Parkway, call 336-373-8568.

**NC Trout Stream Information**  
[ncwildlife.org](#)



## SAFETY TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

**Rapid Classification System**  
**Class I Rapid:** Easy. Fast moving water with riffles and small waves. Little risk.  
**Class II Rapid:** Novice. Straightforward rapids with wide, clear channels. Easy to maneuver. Little risk.  
**Class III Rapid:** Intermediate. Rapids with moderate, irregular waves with complex maneuvers. Some risk.  
**Class IV Rapid:** Advanced. Intense, powerful but predictable rapids that require skill and experience with risks including the possibility of injury.  
**Class V Rapid:** Expert. Extremely long, obstructed, or violent rapids where risks may result in severe injury or death.  
**Class VI Rapid:** Extreme and exploratory rapids. Rarely attempted. Extreme difficulty, unpredictable, and dangerous. Risk of errors are severe, and rescue may be impossible.

## SAFETY GEAR

**Dry Bag:** A waterproof, sealable bag that keeps contents dry.  
**First Aid Kit:** A set of materials and tools used for giving emergency treatment to an injured person.  
**Helmet:** A hard or padded hat that protects the head.  
**Painter:** Usually 10 feet long, a line attached to the bow and stern of a boat to aid in boat rescue and to secure the boat to the shoreline.  
**PFD/Lifejacket:** Personal Flotation Device in the form of a vest or suit to prevent drowning.  
**River Knife:** Small knife used to cut small lines or use as a tool.  
**Spray Skirt:** A piece of waterproof material that fits around a paddler and opening of a kayak to prevent water from entering the craft.  
**Throw Bag:** A rescue device with a rope stuffed loosely into a bag that can be thrown to a paddler or swimmer in trouble.

## DESCRIPTIVE TERMS

**Boat Scouting:** Observing a rapid from a boat by judging multiple eddies at the top of and on the way down the rapid.  
**CFS/CMS:** Cubic Feet Per Second/Cubic Meters Per Second  
**Hydrological terms for measuring water flow on a river.**  
**Downstream/Upstream:** The direction the current is flowing.  
**Downstream V:** A tongue of dark water that loosely forms a "V" shape with whitewater at the edges that indicates the deepest and most obstacle-free entry into or path through a rapid.  
**Eddy:** A river feature formed when the current flows around an obstacle and water flows back upstream to create a calmer and slower current. An area to rest, avoid the current, and scout.  
**Ferry:** A river-running technique used to cross a downstream current to get from one side of the river to the other without being carried downstream with the current.  
**Gauge:** Used to measure the water height of a river.

**Gradient:** Refers to the amount of drop or loss of elevation in a river from put in to take out.  
**Horizon Line:** A point in the river where the current drops off, and the rapid below cannot be seen from upstream.  
**Hydraulic/Hole:** Created when water flows over a rock or ledge forcefully downstream and water from downstream flows back upstream to fill in the depression.  
**Keeper Hole:** Powerful hole or hydraulic in which the foam pile or backwash is so strong that it does not easily release boats, debris, etc., and recirculates them in the hole.  
**Open Water:** A large body of water that is not protected from the wind by trees or shoreline. Should only be attempted by experienced boaters.  
**Portage:** The act of carrying your boat around a rapid due to an obstruction or the route lacking a safe runnable passage.  
**Rapid:** A section of river where the gradient increases causing the flow of the water to speed up creating more turbulence.  
**Reading Water:** The technique used to decipher and recognize the safest paths through turbulent whitewater.  
**River Right/River Left:** Describes the river reference when facing downstream.  
**Scouting a Rapid:** The act of pulling over above a rapid, exiting the boat, and walking to the edge of the rapid to look at it from land, discern the safest path, and decide to continue or portage.  
**Standing Wave:** A tall wave that has no foam pile and that water is flowing through quickly.  
**Strainer:** A tree or tree branches in the current that allow for the water to flow through but that can trap a boat.  
**Swiftwater Rescue:** Rescue techniques for situations involving current or fast-flowing water by specially trained personnel, ropes, and mechanical systems that are more robust than those used in standard rope rescue.  
**Wave:** A feature formed when the gradient increases, the river constricts, or the current flows over rocks and other debris on the riverbed.  
**White Water:** Formed when flowing water mixes with air creating aerated water. On rivers, white water is formed when water flows over obstacles such as rocks in the riverbed or when the gradient of a river increases, quickening the flow, and creating turbulence.

## BOATING TERMS

**Bow/Stern:** Front and rear of the boat.  
**Deck/Hull:** Top and bottom of the boat.  
**Outfitting:** Adding additional features that improve comfort, fit, and convenience to a boat.  
**Put In/Take Out:** The river access points where paddlers start and end their trip.  
**Shuttle:** The ability to leave your boat and gear at your launch point and having a vehicle at your take out location to transport your boat, gear, and passengers.



**yadkin valley**