

## ROUTE DESCRIPTION

River miles 78 to 34 (44 miles)

(R) and (L) are right and left banks of the river when facing downstream.

Red text indicates caution areas.

### INDIAN LAKE TO ISLAND LAKE

**Character:** A variety of rapids makes the paddling in this remote stretch interesting.

**Length:** The 35-mile trip includes 1.5 miles across Island Lake to the take out.

**Average run time:** 2 days.

**Class:** Approximately 10 Class I-II rapids.

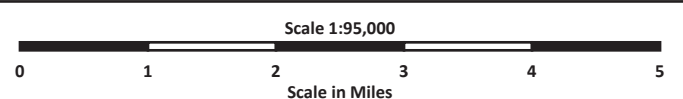
**Optimal Flow:** Above 3.5 at Co. Road 44.

**Skill Level:** Intermediate to Expert. Beginners should portage some rapids.

**Access:** North on CR 44 from Rollins to access on Indian Lake.

- 71.8 (R) Indian Lake Access: Trailer access, rest area, campground (25 sites), drinking water.
- 71.1 Railroad trestle.
- 69.8 (R) Carry-in access, limited parking, no facilities, minimum maintenance roads.
- 68.9 (L) Pine Creek confluence.
- 65.6 (L) **Camp G Rapids:** Sharp right turn and a plunge down the rapids, a Class II drop. Run it toward the left or choose the 330 yard portage on the left.
- 61.7 (R) Watercraft campsite.
- 61.5 (L) Bear Lake Road: Trailer access, watercraft campsite.
- 56.9 (L) **Buzz Ryan's Rapids:** Class I rapids. Avoid ledge on left. Portage left, 165 yards.
- 56.6 (R) **Dry Foot Brown's Rapids:** Class II rapids. Portage right, 400 yards.
- 56.2 (L) Watercraft campsite.
- 56-55.8 **Dana's Rapids:** Class II rapids. Steep and bouldery. Portage left, 200 yards.
- 53.9 (R) Masse Creek confluence.
- 48.4-48.1 **Dr. Barney's Rapids:** Class I-II rapids. Long series of boulders. Portage left or right, 1386 yards.
- 48.3 (R) Cloquet River (S): Trailer access and watercraft campsite.
- 48.2 (L) Rosalyn Kelly: Watercraft campsite.
- 46.2 (L) Little Cloquet River confluence.
- 44.4-44 **Cedar Rapids:** Class II rapids. Run the ledge on the far right. Many boulders present. Portage left, 880 yards.
- 42.5 Enter Alden Lake. Paddle south, west, and south again to enter the river again.
- 42-41.6 **Cloquet Rapids:** Class I rapids, no established portage.
- 40.1 (R) Dirty Nose: Watercraft campsite.
- 38.5-38.4 **McCabe's Rapids:** Class II rapids. Portage left, 100 yards. Rapids consists of three ledges, each about two feet high with offset chutes.
- 37.3 Historic Vermilion Trail, the first road to the Iron Range crossed the river here.
- 37 (R) **White Sides Rapids:** A difficult Class II rapids. Steep, with standing waves and boulders. Portage right, 280 yards.
- 35 Minnesota Power (N): Trailer access and rest area.

*Continued on Map 2: Cloquet River State Water Trail  
Island Lake to St. Louis River*



# CLOQUET RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL



## MAP 2 - INDIAN LAKE TO ISLAND LAKE



**mn MINNESOTA**  
STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

## ABOUT THE WATER TRAIL

This stretch of the Cloquet River offers vast forested banks and a remote, primitive feel. Paddle past red and white pines, fir, spruce, aspen and birch as the river makes its way to the St. Louis River.

Medium to heavy stream flow is best for an enjoyable run through the river's rapids. Stream flow is usually high during spring runoff and typically falls throughout the summer. The river above Island Lake can rise quickly after heavy rains and take 3 to 7 days to return to normal flow. The rapids in this area may only be runnable after heavy rains.

Within the river is a diverse fish population with abundant northern pike, walleye and brook trout. You may also spot painted, snapping and wood turtles. To protect their eggs, avoid trampling sandy areas.

Hazards include Class I-III rapids. Portages are available for Class II rapids and up and should be used by beginners. Always get out and scout the rapids before proceeding.



Check river flow before your trip for a pleasant paddle.

## CONTACTS

**DNR INFORMATION CENTER**  
500 Lafayette Rd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040  
(888) 646-6367  
[info.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:info.dnr@state.mn.us)

**DNR AREA OFFICE**  
1568 Hwy 2  
Two Harbors, MN 55616  
(218) 834-1420

## TRIP PLANNING AND SAFETY



- Plan your trip with a map before you leave. Tell someone your plans, including put-in and take-out times.
- Travel with a companion or group.
- Most people paddle 2-3 river miles per hour.
- River levels can affect your speed and trip safety. Check conditions at [mndnr.gov/river\\_levels](http://mndnr.gov/river_levels).
- Don't underestimate the power of wind and waves, especially on large lakes.
- Be cautious of obstacles in the river and avoid overhanging and dead trees.
- Bring clean drinking water and a waterproof container with a first aid kit, waterproof matches and extra clothes.
- Wear a life jacket at all times while on the water.
- Purchase a license for your non-motorized watercraft if it's more than 10 feet in length. If you're not from Minnesota, check your state's watercraft license laws.

## WATERCRAFT CAMPING



- Camp only in designated campsites, which are often available on a first-come, first-served basis. State and national forests do allow dispersed camping. Be sure to check regulations before your trip.
- Riverbed camping next to private property is not permitted.
- Stay off private property. Stop only at designated sites; much of the shoreland is private property.
- Be sanitary! Use designated toilet facilities or bury human waste away from the river.
- Follow the rules for firewood. State forests allow you to gather dead wood for a fire, but state parks do not.

## MEDICAL

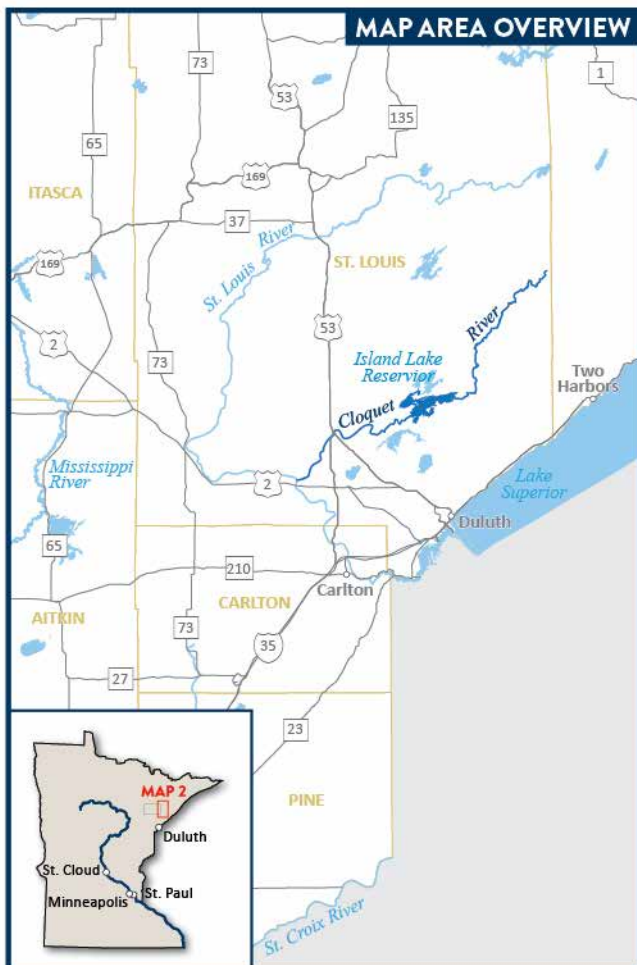


**ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL**  
915 East First St.  
Duluth, MN 55805  
(218) 249-5616

**ST. MARY'S MEDICAL CENTER**  
407 East Third St.  
Duluth, MN 55805  
(218) 786-4000

**LAKE VIEW HOSPITAL**  
325 Eleventh Avenue  
Two Harbors, MN 55616  
218-834-7300

**IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 911**



## RECOMMENDED DAY TRIP

### Indian Lake Access to Bear Lake Road

- Put-in location: River mile **71.8**
- Take-out location: River mile **61.5**
- Length: **10.3** river miles

Paddle this narrow, northern stretch of the river and enjoy wooded banks on either side. Expect a set of Class II rapids halfway along your route with an option to run them or portage around. Watch for bald eagles, deer and even otter. You'll find several public campsites, allowing you to turn this into a longer trip if desired.

## EXPLORE ON SHORE

### Watercraft Campsites (DNR)

In this section, you'll find numerous primitive watercraft campsites on property managed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. These sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis and do not require a fee. Camp during a longer trip or simply stop for a picnic meal (if unoccupied).

## PROTECT THE RIVER

Your experience on the river depends on a healthy environment. As you explore the beauty of this waterway, also do your best to protect it.

### Protect Your Waters

Before launching...before leaving

- Clean off aquatic plants and animals.
- Drain all water away from the landing.
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.

[mndnr.gov/invasives/aquatic](http://mndnr.gov/invasives/aquatic)

### Buffer Protection

The Minnesota buffer law establishes new vegetation buffers along rivers, streams and ditches to help filter out chemicals and sediment before they reach waterways.

[mndnr.gov/buffers](http://mndnr.gov/buffers)

## More Information

[mndnr.gov/watertrails](http://mndnr.gov/watertrails)

- River level reporting
- River conditions reporting
- Interactive water trail map
- Recommended routes
- River rapids definitions
- Virtual tours

Search for outfitters at [exploreminnesota.com](http://exploreminnesota.com)

This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by contacting [info.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:info.dnr@state.mn.us), 651-296-6157, or MN Relay 711.