

Discover the Northern Forest Canoe Trail

The Northern Forest Canoe Trail is a 740-mile water trail that runs from Old Forge, New York, to Fort Kent, Maine, and connects New York, Vermont, Quebec, New Hampshire and Maine. The trail showcases the mix of landscapes and communities currently lining the traditional routes used by indigenous peoples, settlers and guides. It is the longest in-land water trail in the nation.



Fast facts

The Northern Forest Canoe Trail consists of:



23 rivers & streams



59 lakes & ponds



45 communities



65 portages
(70+ miles)

Resources

Our maps, guidebooks, suggested itineraries and a trip planner tool help people find their next paddling adventure. Connect with NFCT paddlers through our Facebook group, blog posts, waterway work trips and community paddles. The information and inspiration you need can be found at northernforestcanoetrail.org.

Stewardship

Protecting and enhancing a 740-mile water trail requires continuous work. Our professional staff, intern crews and cadre of volunteers maintain access infrastructure, mitigate human impacts and keep our maps and itineraries up to date. Each year, we train and field the only trail crew specializing in water access in the Northeast.

Landowner Partners

Private landowners make access to and travel across the NFCT possible. With their good will and permission, we are able to build and maintain the access points, portage trails and campsites essential for navigating our waterways. We are grateful and implore paddlers to respect this privilege and leave no trace of your passing when you go.

Collaboration

Our small organization accomplishes great things as a result of incredible partners. Local organizations and businesses, the international outdoor industry, individuals, private foundations, agencies and governments all come together on common ground to support our work, provide resources for paddlers, outfit our trips and promote the trail.

Where next?

Our founders understood the NFCT as a series of waterways forming the central artery that links the watersheds of the northeast. We aspire to connect a growing list of paddling routes in partnership with the communities and organizations that develop and care for them.

Our Vision

An unrivaled network of paddling opportunities across the Northern Forest will inspire ongoing experiences and stories, enticing people to fall in love with the region. Their passion and commitment will contribute to the health of our communities, landscapes and waterways.

Paddling the trail

The NFCT offers a variety paddling experiences — short evening trips, weekend sojourns, months-long expeditions and everything in between. Paddlers of all abilities can find something to inspire them: paddle big lakes and small ponds, quiet water and whitewater through remote wilderness and charming communities. Dip into the Trail as fits your needs and keep coming back to see what's around the next bend.

Get involved

The NFCT relies on the generosity of paddlers, businesses, donors, foundations, landowners and community leaders to fulfil our mission: to promote and steward our water trail and support communities, waterways and paddling across the Northern Forest. Become a member, volunteer and tell a friend. Your participation ensures access to the waterways of our region today and for generations to come.

Get in touch & learn more

Northern Forest Canoe Trail
8 State Route 17
Waitsfield, Vermont 05673
P.O. Box 565
Phone: (802) 496-2285
Email: karrie@northernforestcanoetrail.org
Web: northernforestcanoetrail.org

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