

TRIP 2

FLAGSTAFF LAKE TO GRAND FALLS



TRIP AT A GLANCE

- ☐ NFCT Map 9: Flagstaff Lake Region
- ☐ Options 1 and 2: 1 lake
- ☐ Option 3: 1 lake, 1 river
- ☐ 19 – 37 miles
- ☐ 0 – 2 portages

Trip Description

This section of the NFCT travels the length of Flagstaff Lake, the fourth largest lake in Maine and the largest human-made lake in the state. During a trip on Flagstaff, there are wonderful opportunities to swim, stargaze, and even the option to hike Mt. Avery in the Bigelows. Flagstaff Lake is located at the base of the Bigelows, which makes this section the closest that the NFCT and the Appalachian Trail get. Groups are treated to stunning mountain views throughout their experience. This trip has options for different length and difficulty of itineraries, with the opportunity to add two portages and some rapids depending on which itinerary your group chooses.

Suggested Itineraries

Flagstaff Lake was formed by a large dam. Planning an itinerary that travels from west to east tends to work in favor of the winds. The lake is big and waves can build quickly so travel close to shore as much as possible. Try to make the shortest crossing possible when traversing the lake and try to avoid afternoon thunderstorms. Plan to be off the water by mid-afternoon, and head for shore quickly if it begins to look stormy.

NOTE: Some of these campsites require fire permits. Call Maine Forest Service (800) 750-9777 to obtain.

| Option 1 | DAY 1 | DAY 2 | DAY 3 | DAY 4 |
|------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| START Day At | Put in Rt. 27 Flagstaff Lake Boat Launch** | Savage Farm | Hurricane Island | Round Barn |
| END Day At | Savage Farm | Hurricane Island | Round Barn** | Bog Brook Boat Launch |
| MILEAGE | 4.5 | 7.5 | 3 | 4 |
| NOTES | Shorter day to include travel. **If coming from a distance, start from Trout Brook North Boat Launch. | Travel to the left (north) of the two large islands before Hurricane. Note: The eastern island is connected to the mainland by a private road that obstructs passage along its southern edge. | Note that Round Barn is also accessible by car and sites can fill up quickly. **This can also be used as a take out location for a shorter trip. Also possible to day hike the Bigelows from this site. | Camp at Little Bigelow Gravel Pit campsites near take out or travel back based on preference. |

| Option 2 | DAY 1 | DAY 2 | DAY 3 | DAY 4 |
|------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| START Day At | Put in Trout Brook North Boat Launch/ Campsite | School House Point | Hurricane Island | One Mile Beach |
| END Day At | School House Point | Hurricane Island | One Mile Beach | Long Falls Dam Boat Launch |
| MILEAGE | 5 | 5.5 | 6 | 4 |
| NOTES | Day can include travel or can camp at Trout Brook North On days where water is still, can paddle over Old Flagstaff Village and see remains in water below. | Travel to the left (north) of the two large islands before Hurricane. Note: The eastern island is connected to the mainland by a private road that obstructs passage along its southern edge. | Be mindful of wind when doing lake crossings. Keep an eye on conditions and make sure to cross at the shortest possible route. | Short day to include travel. Cannot camp at take out. |

See Suggested Itinerary Option 3 on next page

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Suggested Itineraries (Con't)

| Option 3 | DAY 1 | DAY 2 | DAY 3 | DAY 4 | DAY 5 |
|---------------------|--|---|--|--|---|
| START Day At | Put in Rt. 27 Flagstaff Lake Boat Launch** | Savage Farm | Hurricane Island | Long Fall Dam Campsite | Island of the Giants |
| END Day At | Savage Farm | Hurricane Island | Long Fall Dam Campsite | Island of the Giants | Dead River White-water Put-in |
| MILEAGE | 4.5 | 7.5 | 6.5 | 8.5 (+ portage) | 8.5 (+ portage) |
| NOTES | On days where water is still, you can paddle over to Old Flagstaff Village and see remains in the water below. **If coming from a distance, it's recommended to start from Trout Brook North Boat Launch. | Travel to the left (north) of the two large islands before Hurricane. Note: The eastern island is connected to the mainland by a private road that obstructs passage along its southern edge. | Campsite is located on a small island before boat launch. Camping is not allowed at boat launch. | Portage Long Falls Dam (0.6 mi). Class I-II rapid after portage. Be sure to tie up your boats or bring them to high ground. Beach floods during dam releases. | Portage Grand Falls (1 mile). Camping is technically allowed at take out, but not ideal. |

Camping Information

Camping in this area is first-come, first-served and is only permitted at designated sites. Some sites require a fire permit (on the NFCT map sites in red require a fire permit), which can be obtained by calling the Maine Forest Service at (800) 750-9777. Note that some sites are accessible by car and might fill up quickly.

Shuttle Information

All Points Transportation

Call Greg at (207) 329-3482



Other Resources

[Bigelow Preserve & Flagstaff Lake](#)

[Dead River Historical Society](#)