

Manistee River Trail

From the time when spring's new leaves emerge until the bright colors of autumn paint the riparian hardwoods with shades of red and yellow, the Manistee River is one of the more scenic areas of the Manistee National Forest. The Manistee River Trail, with its steep slopes and sharp turns, meanders through native hardwoods and pines. Cool green glades with mosses and ferns are to be found at nearly every stream crossing.

Trail Information

The 18" wide trail starts at Seaton Creek Campground on the backwaters of Hodenpyl Dam Pond on the Manistee River. The trail follows the east bank of the Manistee for approximately 10 1/2 miles, from Seaton Creek Campground to Coates Highway, where it crosses the river at Red Bridge. From there, a 1 1/2 mile segment runs west, connecting with the North Country National Scenic Trail. Bicycles and pack animals are prohibited on the trail. This trail is designated for foot travel only.

Along the trail, hikers can experience spectacular views of the Manistee River valley, boardwalks across the low wetland areas,

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An eight foot high waterfall flowing from a spring fed brook and a unique arch timber bridge crossing Slagle Creek. The trail is marked with gray diamond trail markers.

Please keep in mind:

- camp a minimum of 200 feet from the river and the trail to minimize impact to other hikers, or at designated sites..
- small campfires are allowed but please use only dead or fallen wood.
- make sure your fire pit is cleaned of unburned items and pack out the unburned material.
- don't bury your garbage. Animals dig it up.
- do not drink the river water. Microorganisms in unpurified water can create serious problems for humans.

Directions to Trailheads:

From Mesick take Hwy M-37 south for 6 miles, or north 9 miles from the Hwy M-55 junction. Turn west on 26 Road (near Yuma) for 1.7 miles then right on O'Rourke Drive for 1.3 miles, then right on Forest Service Road 5993 for .4 miles to the **Seaton Creek Campground**. There is a \$3/car day use parking fee. **Red Bridge River Access Site** may be reached from Hwy M-37 via 30-Mile Road. Turn west on 30-Mile Road the left at the curve onto Warfield Road. Drive south approximately 1 1/2 miles and watch for Coates Highway on the right. Turn right onto Coates Highway to Red Bridge over the Manistee. The parking lot is on the west side of the river. The trail starts on the east side of the river.



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Manistee

National Forest



For up-to-date trail condition information contact:

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