

BIG SIOUX RIVER

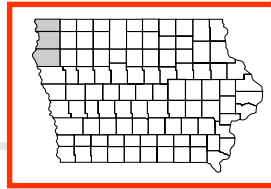
Larchwood to Sioux City



WHERE CAN ONE FLOAT a remote river — past cactus-covered rock and ledges more than a billion years old, over frontier stagecoach crossings, sites of massive Sioux encampments, a pioneer grist mill, mill dam and mill pond — through waters once scoured for pearls and gold? On extreme northwestern Iowa's Big Sioux River, of course.

THE BIG SIOUX RIVER starts its journey southward from northeastern South Dakota through broad hills and wide valleys.

South of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where the river forms the Iowa-South Dakota boundary, the valley deepens and becomes



narrower. Pasture and range land predominate with cultivated land restricted to upland areas. The upland varies from gentle slopes to hilly and broken terrain. From Hawarden, Iowa to the confluence with the Missouri River near Sioux City, the valley broadens, forming level farmland with a backdrop of hills. The channel in this river reach exhibits the well-defined meanders of age. River gradients range from two feet to one-half foot per mile, creating a fairly sluggish stream — especially in the lower reaches. Some canoeing skills are necessary to enjoy a Big Sioux River trip and two portages, one at Klondike and one at Canton, are required.

HISTORIANS HAVE RECORDED that early settlers described the Big Sioux as a clean, clear water stream. However, like many Iowa streams, it has undergone rapid changes as a result of human influence. Stream habitat and water quality have taken the brunt of civilization's blow. However, in recent years, through the continuing efforts of concerned citizens and governmental agencies, the problem of point source pollution has been greatly reduced. The result — substantially better water quality.

A VARIETY OF ANGLING opportunities exist for the Big Sioux River traveler. Channel catfish is "king of the river" with walleye and northern pike providing some excitement, particularly in the upper reaches of river that border Sioux and Lyon counties. A flathead catfish and an occasional sauger may surprise an angler in the lower sections of river below Klondike. Smallmouth bass have been stocked in the Big Sioux to enhance the variety of fishing opportunities.

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Distance from Previous Access	Access Name	Location
0 miles	1. Gitchie Manitou	8 mi W, 3 mi N Larchwood
8 miles	2. Hidden Bridge Area	6 mi W, 1 mi S Larchwood
7 miles	3. Klondike River Access	6 mi N, 5 mi W Inwood
8 miles	4. Big Sioux Wildlife Area (Hwy. 18 Bridge)	7 mi W Inwood
4 miles	5. Canton, South Dakota	1 mi E, 1 mi S Canton, SD
9 miles	6. Newton Hills State Park Bridge (A50)	1 mi W Beloit
18 miles	7. Rock-Sioux Access	7 mi N Hawarden
3 miles	8. Oak Grove State Park	6 mi N Hawarden
7 miles	9. Carr's Landing	Hawarden
19 miles	10. Big Sioux Park Access	1 mi N Akron
18 miles	11. Millsite Access	1 mi W Westfield
32 miles	12. Stone State Park	NW edge Sioux City
5 miles	13. Riverside Park (Sioux City Access)	N edge Sioux City

