

# MANISTEE RIVER TRAIL

## Trail Guide



**Driving Distance from St. Joseph:  
179 miles | 3 Hours**

RED BRIDGE RIVER ACCESS  
N COATES HWY | HARRIETTA, MI 49638

**Suggested Activity: Backpacking**



### Trail Type & Difficulty

LOOP(S) || MODERATE

**“Loop” Trail:** A trail designed so that the route is a closed circuit connecting a number of points of interest, giving hikers the option of not traveling the same section of trail more than once on a trip.



### Total Length

23 MILES

Enter at Red Bridge Access and hike counter-clockwise for the best camping options.



### Why We ♥ the Manistee River Trail

TRAIL NOTES

One of lower Michigan’s most popular weekend backpacking trails, this loop follows the river through the Manistee National Forest. Varied scenery and bluff hiking provide many unique views. Plus, there is enough elevation change to keep the hike interesting but not overly strenuous. Prepare to filter/purify your own water. Opt for primitive camping on the Manistee River Trail side of the loop for the best riverside spots.



### Campsite Options & Entry Costs

Designated camping at Seaton Creek Campground, 43 sites. Dispersed camping is also legal.

**“Designated”** - Campsites set aside in more remote areas but lack the conveniences of frontcountry campsites. Some will have lean-tos or shelters in addition to tent sites. These sites often have outhouses and sometimes fire rings. Be prepared to filter your own water.

**Entry Fees & Parking Costs:** No fees to hike, park, or practice dispersed camping. Designated camping sites at Seaton Creek Campground are \$18/night.



TRAIL GUIDE COURTESY OF:

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