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Launch canoes at the Canyon Station and follow the river downstream to Hwy 17. Most of the route is rapids, and fast, shallow water requiring skillful maneuvering. The major obstacles on the route are an old timber dam and Agawa Falls. The Falls and high canyon walls make this route spectacular.

The route is not described from above Canyon because of several rapids and a gorge beside the railway right-of-way. These areas require portages on the railway tracks – trespassing, which violates the Federal Railway Act. We discourage people from attempting the upper sections of the river above Canyon Station.

A Word of Caution

This route is for experienced canoeists only. It fluctuates from very low water in dry periods to very high water with treacherous rapids in spring run-off or after heavy rains. Please Note that topographic maps do not show Agawa Falls. Use extreme caution when approaching the falls.

Tips

Canoeists must take the train to Canyon Station. At the time of writing, the Algoma Central Railway (ACR) requires canoes and gear to be loaded in Sault Ste. Marie; passengers may catch the train at Frater. For updated information contact the ACR at 1-800-242-9287 (www.agawacanyontrain.com).

At the time of arrival at Canyon Station it is too late in the day to do the whole trip to Hwy 17. That means either camping at Canyon (arrange with ACR) or camping part-way downstream. Travel lightly; as little gear as possible should be taken because the extra weight could be a factor that causes the canoe to bottom out in shallow water below Agawa Falls.



Lower Agawa River Canoe Route

From: Canyon Station (mile 114) on the Algoma Central Railway
To: Highway 17
Length: 29 km
Time: 2 days

Portages: 4 from 100 m to 800 m
Portage 1: 250 m on the left
Portage 2: 200 m on right; line the canoe in low water; in high water this fast water section can be run by skilled canoeists
Portage 3: 700 m on the right, under the power line.
A 500 m section over cobbles (between P3 & P4) may have to be portaged in low water.

Portage 4: 750 m on the left, around an old logging dam. Do not put in at the sand beach (approx. 500 m along the portage), as there is a small gorge just beyond.
This dam was built in 1915 by Albert Woods who cut pine and pulpwood for the Spanish River Pulp & Paper Company. Later the licence was acquired by Abitibi.

Portage 5: Agawa Falls, 750 on the right. The portage starts 250 m above the Falls, over the hill to the river below. Canoes can be lowered with ropes down the steep slope to the river below the Falls. From here to the highway shallow fast water predominates. The Falls (25 m high) were an important attraction to early tourists and sportsmen.

Portage 5: Agawa Falls – there are two takeouts, depending on water level:
1. High Water – 750 m on the right; the portage starts 250 m above the Falls; or
2. Low Water – 300 m on the right; the portage starts 100 m above Falls in rapids.
The portage has a steep descent over the hill to the river below. Canoes can be lowered with ropes down the steep slope to the river below the Falls. From here to the highway shallow fast water predominates.

Agawa Falls (25 m high) was an important attraction to early tourists and sportsmen.

Legend

- Designated Campsite
- Algoma Central Railway
- Hiking Trail
- Portage
- Highway 17
- Contour (20 metre or 65.5 ft intervals)
- Park Boundary
- Lakes and Large Streams
- Wetlands



This map should not be relied on as a precise indicator of routes or locations, nor as a guide to navigation. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) shall not be liable in any way for the use of, or reliance upon, this map or any information on this map.

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