

Dead River Paddle from Big Eddy to Grand Falls Hut

By Maine Huts & Trails

This adventure is great for beginners, to those looking for a beautiful day on the Dead River as you paddle to Grand Falls Hut

This trip starts just below Big Eddy at our parking lot on the right. To start, backtrack .3 miles along the Long Falls Dam Rd until you see our trail crossing (look for the big white pine tree), enter our trail to the left, signs pointing towards Grand Falls. Your boats will be stored at the Bunting Landing, located about a one mile hike away from the parking area. Once at the landing, find your boats and equipment, labeled and waiting for you. Put in at the sandy landing, and you're on your way!

The paddle on the Dead River is six miles of easygoing current that lends itself to enjoying the surroundings. The river is wide as it meanders through deciduous and evergreen trees. Wild irises and ferns can be found along the bank. There are many opportunities to see moose, beaver and the many different varieties of songbirds, loons, kingfishers, mergansers and bald eagles. As you paddle, you will enjoy stunning views of the Bigelow Mountain Range and Blanchard Mountain. Philbrook Landing, a campsite, will be on your left, about two miles above the falls. This is a nice place to stop and have lunch, swim and enjoy the wilderness as you paddle towards the Hut.

Our boat dock will be on your right, after a series of islands. You will pull your boat out here, and leave your PFD and paddle. Please be sure to properly store all your equipment. Follow our signs to Grand Falls Hut. You will come to a footbridge that crosses over the Dead River. Go across the bridge, and take a right heading towards Grand Falls.

Grand Falls is a stunning 40 ft. Horseshoe Falls that span 120 feet across. The falls are one of the most impressive and scenic undammed falls in the Northeast. Follow our Maine Huts and Trails to different viewing locations along the way. Walking to the Hut is about 30-40 minutes, and there are two options, the Nordic trail or the Fisherman's trail. The Nordic trail is a nice wooded trail, and the Fisherman's trail follows the river. Both trails take you to the hut. You can spend the night at the hut, enjoy dinner, breakfast at the hut, and a trailside lunch to bring with you.

To return to your destination, follow the signs back to our dock, find your boats and point upstream. Paddle back up the Dead River to the Bunting Landing, store your equipment on the racks, and make your way back to your vehicle.