

Rivers of Newfoundland Database

Region:	River:	NTS Sheet:	UTM Type:	Zone:
Burin Peninsula	Paradise River	1 M09	NAD27	21

River Description:

A beautiful drop pool river flowing through a remote valley on the Burin Peninsula.

Difficulty Rating:	Hardest Rapid:	Flow Information:
III	V-VI	Levels are judged using the Northwest River Gauge. This is the next drainage over, but if the NWR is over 20, than the Paradise is likely runnable.

River Levels:

How to get there:

Put-in	Northing:	Easting:
The put-in for the Paradise River is straight forward. From the TCH in Goobies travel south on highway #210. At kilometer 40 the highway passes over a bridge which is labeled Dunn's Brook. This is the confluence of the Paradise River and Dunn's Brook and also the put-in.		
Secondary Take-out	Northing:	Easting:
An intermediate take-out exists for the Paradise which utilizes the bulk of the good whitewater on the river and significantly shortens the day. From the put-in travel 1 km north and turn right onto the road to Monkstown. Travel between 6 and 10 km down this road and watch for a narrow lane on the right hand side of the road. This pulls out into a clearing that looks over the river valley and the river is visible from this point. The take-out is recognized on the river by a 7 m cliff face perpendicular to the river flow on the river left bank. From the river the vehicles should be visible on the hillside. This egress point is below all the fun whitewater and above the big falls. If you don't know the river than study a topo map or run the entire river. The hike out is a bush crash, as there is no trail at this point.		

Gradient:

Section: Avg
Distance: 18.20 km
Elevation Loss: 91.1 m 299 ft
Gradient: 5 m/km 26 fpm
Section: Max
Distance: 3.90 km
Elevation Loss: 41.5 m 136 ft
Gradient: 11 m/km 56 fpm

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River: Paradise River

Take-out

Northing: Easting:

The shuttle is long for this river and it is often pleasant to run shuttle the night before the run. From the put-in travel north for 1 km and turn right onto the gravel road to Monkstown. Travel this road for about 19 km to the first right hand turn. This turn is near the road to Davis Cove. Turn right and follow the gravel road for around 4 km to the first right hand turn on this road. After the right hand turn follow this road until it ends at the reservoir behind the dam.

Detailed Description of the River

First Descent: (19??) Mark Dykeman, Stuart Gillis, and Mark Dykeman. This was also the only complete descent of the river. Shortly after this trip the dam was constructed, drowning 6 kilometers of good whitewater.

The Paradise River is one of my favorite runs on the Burin Peninsula. It isn't real hard, but it offers a variety of challenge and it can be run from almost bone dry to stonking big water. However the Paradise River should come with a warning; the optimistic moniker of this river may not reflect the nature of your paddling trip. I've had several epics in my paddling career and three of them have been on the Paradise River. These range from friends being brutally pounded in nasty holes to walking around a frozen reservoir. This is remote river with some technically difficult rapids and good scouting practices are required to safely run this river.

I'd like to talk about a few of my favorite drops on this river, because that is all I can really remember in any great detail. Most of the rapids are straight forward. There is an inordinate number of horizon lines on this river and if your group is unfamiliar with the river it is always a good idea to have someone hop out and quickly scout a drop. The river starts with a few class II riffles leading up to a 5 m river wide ledge (IV - V). The ledge has several runnable lines and is a great warm-up drop. Enjoy this one because there is a 3 km steady immediately after the rapid. Your adrenaline rush from successfully running the first rapid will last about 5 minutes into the steady and then you'll begin to swear. The steady winds across the plateau and when the rapids start to appear you should be on your toes. The river will pass through some class II rapids and take a ninety degree turn to the left. This is the start of a class -IV rapid. The lines are obvious, but it should be scouted your first time down. The crux section of the rapid is a blind corner and the eddies are small and sketchy at the brink of the ledge.

Following this rapid the whitewater is pretty continuous. A lot of class III ledges and rapids. When the river begins to steepen and the drops become closer together you're approaching the first waterfall (V). Eddy out and portage on the river right side of the pool above the falls. This 5m falls can be run at various levels in a variety of ways. It probably goes at really high water too, but it looks positively scary at high water. An alternative is the slot (IV+) on river right. This narrow (2.5 m wide) falls careens around a corner and plunks you in a small pool. It's tons of fun, but I almost broke my nose there when I missed the move, went really deep, and clipped my paddle off the wall and into my face. The whitewater eases up after this drop, but there are plenty of fun rapids and a few class III+ drops that are difficult to scout and may surprise the unsuspecting boater. If you're using the secondary take-out, you should be keeping an eye out for it. It is a large, bald rock face on river left which is perpendicular to the current. The vehicles can also be seen on the hillside. This rock appears in a reasonably quiet section of the river as you float along.

Once the whitewater picks-up again it is in the form a of class II+ rapid leading to the brink of the

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"The Falls" (IV+ - VI). This is a double drop starting with a 7 m falls into a short pool. The exit of the pool is a 3m, river wide, horseshoe shaped ledge. At high water this ledge disappears and is replaced by the most hideous, massive, frowning hole that I have ever seen anywhere. The boil line is 15m (50') wide and sucks back into the hole like a freight train. At low water this becomes the highlight of a run on the Paradise River, although the hole behind the ledge still looks unfriendly. The arduous portage is located on the river right shore. It is a feat of mountaineering and involves a 2.5 m seal launch off a thin ledge. For those of you in playboats the wall along the bottom edge of the final pool is the best splat location I've seen on the island. The pillow current here is great, give it a try.

After the waterfall the river bends sharply to the right and a long class I float begins. The rapids below this are easily boat scouted for the most part and there is a few decent play spots in some of them. Watch out for "Hole Bait" (IV+). It is a narrow, 3 m wide, slot canyon with several lines to drop into it. Scout carefully, at high water any of the obvious 4 m waterfalls go and all are fun. At low water the only option is to enter the canyon on the upstream waterfall on river left. This is at least a 4 m (12') drop and possibly 5 m. The ledge is angled to the right and a boil backs-up the down stream end of the hole. If you miss you boof and pencil in you will become intimately acquainted with this hole. Two good boaters have been beaten to a pulp in this hole and released only when they felt there was no more air to be had. It is a scary spot to watch a beating and a difficult rescue to perform. Just be careful on low water runs and make sure you know how to boof.

After this rapid the river has only one or two surprises left. There are a few corner rapids and then you come to a distinct, blind horizon line. The ledge is the obvious line, but on the right side of the slide there is an undercut ledge that likes to pin Saltos. At lower water the only option is to run the rapid as close to the right hand wall as possible and boof hard over the hole. This hole has also worked people several times at various water levels. Fortunately it is fun to watch this one and boaters always wash out the moment they swim. I have never seen a paddler escape this hole in their boat. This is pretty much the last rapid on the river, at very low levels there is some class II/III rapids just before the reservoir. The reservoir is something in the order of six kilometers in length. On a nice day it is no big deal to paddle. We've had some trips here that take forever to battle the head wind coming up the reservoir.