Welcome to the Au Sable River Watershed

From its beginnings in the highest of the Adirondack Mountains to its outlet at Lake Champlain, the Ausable River flows through rugged cliffs, thick forests, and extensive wetlands teeming with wildlife. One of the earliest explored Adirondack rivers, the Ausable parallels several New York State designated scenic road corridors, providing access to unsurpassed and boundless recreational opportunities. Its reputation today as a renowned trout fishery and recreational river contrasts with its early history as a working river which encouraged settlements along its majestic banks. Historic bridges and buildings provide insight into the Adirondacks as far back as the 1700s.

Two mountain streams, known as the East Branch and West Branch, give the Ausable its start in the High Peaks. Each branch travels over 35 miles to their meeting place in the appropriately named village of Au Sable Forks, where they form the main branch of the Ausable River, flowing another 22 miles to Lake Champlain. The second deepest river in New York, the Ausable has magnificent falls and gorges along its course, tempered by stretches of canoable flatwater and fishing heaven. Hiking, boating, canoeing, kayaking, biking, fishing, rock and ice climbing, Nordic and Alpine skiing, and much more can be enjoyed within the Au Sable River Watershed.

What’s in a Name
May you have noticed that the name Au Sable/Ausable is spelled two ways. According to the United States Department of Geographic Names, either spelling is correct, depending on the usage. The river, valley, and watershed are officially spelled Ausable. The Town, Village, and school are officially spelled Au Sable. The original name Ausable, French for “of the sand,” was used by the first explorers in reference to the sandy point formed at the mouth of the river on Lake Champlain.

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About the River

East Branch

The outlet of Lower Ausable Lake is where the East Branch begins its bouldery descent to the tiny hamlet of Saint Huberts, collecting the drainage waters from some of the steepest river in New York, the Ausable has magnificent falls and gorges along its course, tempered by stretches of canoable flatwater and fishing heaven. Hiking, boating, canoeing, kayaking, biking, fishing, rock and ice climbing, Nordic and Alpine skiing, and much more can be enjoyed within the Au Sable River Watershed.

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