

Which river should I kayak/canoe/tube in the Benzie area?

River	Skill Level	Avg Summer Crowds	Wildlife Sightings	More Info
Betsie	Beginner or higher	Low	High	Lots of treefall and some narrow passages. Sandy/silt bottom; fair amount of vegetation. Avg depth 3ft, medium speed (5ft/mile). Very few houses. Kayaks are best on the Betsie.
lower Platte	None or higher	Very High	Low	Little treefall or obstacles. Gravel to sandy bottom. Avg depth 2-4 feet; slow speed (3ft/mile). Popular with families/summer tourists. Tubes, Kayaks or Canoes all work on the lower Platte.
upper Platte	Intermediate or higher	Low-Medium	Medium	Narrow with some boulders and treefall to maneuver around. Gravel to sandy bottom. Avg depth of 1.5-2 ft. Higher speed (13ft/mile). Kayaks are best on the upper Platte.
Crystal	None or higher	Medium-High	Medium	Narrow with some treefall to maneuver around. Gravel bottom. Avg depth of 1-2 ft. Slow speed. May require portage at some rd crossings. Very few houses. Tubes or kayaks are best on the Crystal.

**Note that experience on inland lakes may not transfer to moving rivers.
Have a group? Choose the river that matches the LEAST experienced in the group!**

None=I've never been kayaking!

Beginner= I have river kayaked total 2-3 times or more.

Intermediate= I have kayaked numerous times on multiple rivers.

Expert= I've kayaked a LOT on a wide variety of waterways.

