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New, it is always wise to consult with a local outfitter. The nature of its waters is easily influenced by recent rains. The area's outfitters can steer you to the stretch of river best suited to your wishes.

The New is not suited to rafting. It's not fast enough to propel rafts over its shoals and rocky areas. Most areas also are not well suited for fiberglass or aluminum craft. While there are long portions of open water, almost any trip will encounter some rocky areas or shoals that will hang up rigid fiberglass or aluminum. Luckily, local outfitters offer canoes and kayaks made of more flexible material best suited for these waters.

There are numerous access points along the river so that trips of almost any length can be planned. Plentiful camping locations make an overnight river adventure easy to plan.

Canoes average from 2 to 3 mph. Kayaks are a little quicker at times and, of course, depend on how much you paddle or just float. Most outfitters offer trips from as short as two or three hours to all day. They supply you with a canoe



or kayak, paddle or paddles and life jacket. Tubers get an inner tube. Portage is provided, as well.

In addition to camping available at most outfitters, North Carolina's South Fork is home to New River State Park, which features two developed areas — Wagoner Road Access (1477 Wagoner Access Road in Jefferson) and 221 Access (358 New River State Park Road in Laurel Springs) — with modern campsites, picnic areas, ranger-led programs and hiking trails.

A visitor's center is located at the 221 Access

and includes interactive displays and information on the history and ecology of the river.

Whether you plan a day trip, weekend excursion or longer stay, the communities in the area offer the provisions you need and small-town hospitality that will make you feel like you are home.

Restaurants and cafes feature local cooking that just isn't found down the mountain. If you come for an overnight stay, there is a choice of motels, Airbnbs and vacation rentals to choose from.



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