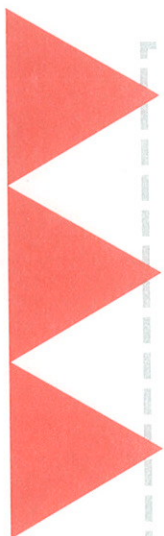


## CEDAR RIVER

### Otranto to Charles City



**T**HE CEDAR RIVER FLOWS from Minnesota into Iowa near the little town of Otranto. Here, the stream is already the largest canoeing water in northeast Iowa and it gets bigger and better on its long trip through the state. This portion of the Cedar provides a wonderfully scenic experience as it carves its way through Mitchell and Floyd counties to Charles City. The river is wide and tree-lined in most places and is a relaxing tonic for both body and soul.

FISHING ON THIS RIVER segment is excellent. Smallmouth bass,



rock bass, walleye and northern pike are found in the upper portion. Channel catfish are found closer to Charles City. Many of the listed canoe access points also provide good shore fishing access. **THE RIVER HAS NO dangerous rapids**, but users should be aware of occasional fallen trees that can easily flip the unwary canoeist. Portage around the Otranto dam on the left bank.

FROM OTRANTO, THE stream-bed consists of limestone boulders and rubble. The stream is the narrowest at this point in the trip and riffles occasionally requiring canoeists to walk the canoe. The smallmouth and rock bass fishing in this segment is the finest on the Cedar. Special catch-and-release regulations apply to all smallmouth caught on the river between Otranto and the Highway T26 bridge south of St. Ansgar. Anglers should check current regulations before fishing this segment.

DOWNSTREAM, THERE IS an old power dam, just above Highway 105 west of St. Ansgar, that can be run through a breach on the right side. Deer Creek enters the river on the right bank and Turtle Creek on the left bank just below the Highway 105 bridge. The St. Ansgar Dam is about two miles below the bridge and can be portaged on the left bank.

BELOW HALVORSON PARK, the river slows as it is impounded by the Interstate Dam at Mitchell. The fish habitat becomes more lake-like in this vicinity and anglers will find largemouth bass, crappie and northern pike. The dam at Mitchell can be portaged on the left bank. The powerhouse at the dam is on the site of an early flour mill built in 1856. The millstone from this old mill has been built into the powerhouse wall, and the keystone of the powerhouse is from the old Paragon Woolen Mill built around 1865.

THE RIVER SEGMENT below the dam at Mitchell has excellent smallmouth bass fishing. About two miles below the dam is Iron Springs, located on the left at the base of a heavily timbered bluff. It is about four miles from the springs to Osage Spring Park. The large enclosed spring in the park is another highlight of this segment. The low-head dam just below the park can be portaged on the right side. About three miles below the park, there is a floating footbridge that can be easily lifted over.

THE RIVER DEEPENS and picks up speed below the Highway T38 bridge. Spring Creek joins the river on the left and Rock Creek on the right before the next bridge.

FISHING IS EXCELLENT for smallmouth and rock bass down to about two miles below Floyd where the floodplain widens and the river slows for the dam at Charles City. Fishing from here to the dam is best for channel catfish. The take-out is on the right above the Main Street Dam in Charles City.

## CEDAR RIVER

### Otranto to Charles City

Distance from Previous Access	Access Name	Location
0 miles	1. Otranto Park	E edge Otranto
6 miles	2. Acorn Park	1 mi NW St. Ansgar
2 miles	3. Halvorson Park	1 mi S St. Ansgar
5 miles	4. Interstate Park	W edge Mitchell
1 mile	5. Bennett Access	1 mi SE Mitchell
3 miles	6. Highway #9 Bridge	1 mi W. Osage
1 mile	7. Osage Spring Park	1 mi W, 1/2 mi S. Osage
3 miles	8. T38 Access	1 mi S. Osage
9 miles	9. Idlewild Access	2 mi N Floyd
4 miles	10. Rotary Access	2 mi E, 1 mi S, 1 mi W. Floyd
6 miles	11. Cedar River Dock	Charles City



