

S27 Day Paddle and Overnight Primitive Camping Trip - Alapaha River

Alapaha River Day Paddle Information Sheet

Description: The 202 mile Alapaha River starts in Georgia, with only about 24 miles in Florida where it finally joins the Suwannee River. The Florida section is mostly flat, and considered a blackwater river due to its tannic color. The river is lined with cypress, pines and oaks. Snapping turtles and alligators are common, as are water birds. The water levels vary considerably throughout the year. This is a long all day paddle for the more experienced paddler. Fortunately it's all downstream.

Skill Level: Advanced

Distance/Approximate Time: 21.3 Miles

Launch Site: Sasser Landing Ramp

Takeout Site: Hutch Gibson Park Ramp on the Suwannee.

Special Considerations: Check with local outfitters for safe river conditions and water levels when planning, and also at the day of your departure; also, to arrange shuttle services if needed. Paddling is best when the Jennings water gauge is between 65 and 68'.

Outfitters:

American Canoe Adventures White Springs, FL (386) 397-1309

Suwannee Canoe Outpost Live Oak, FL (386) 364-4991

Skill Level Definitions

Beginner: New to paddling and may need tips and or instructions about paddling strokes, safety procedures, and entering/exiting kayaks. Comfortable on short trips of 1 to 3 miles on protected waters, when wind does not exceed 5 mph.

Novice: Paddlers acquainted with basic paddle strokes and can manage kayak handling independently in winds not exceeding 10 mph on protected waters. Comfortable on trips up to 6 miles.

Intermediate: Paddlers with experience in basic strokes and some experience on different venues, including some open water. Comfortable on trip distances of 6 to 10 miles, winds not exceeding 15 mph.

Advanced: Seasoned paddlers who possess skills and experience to paddle all venues and conditions. Experienced in self-rescues. Should be comfortable paddling more than 10 miles in a day.

NOTE: Great care has been taken to ensure this guides accuracy, but weather, tides, and water conditions can change rapidly and create hazardous conditions. These maps are for visual reference only, please consult NOAA Charts for navigation. Paddlers should have all proper safety equipment and check conditions before departure. All paddlers should always wear PFDs while on the water, and leave a float plan. There are inherent dangers in any paddle sport. There are special hazards along the Florida coast due to shifting tides, changing wind and weather, shallow waters, and treacherous bottoms with soft mud, rocks, and oyster bars. It is up to each paddler to be aware of these dangers, to accept and be prepared for the risks involved, and to be certain they have the skills to safely paddle in these conditions.