

S28 Day Paddles - Ichetucknee River

Ichetucknee Springs SP North Gate to William Guy Lemon Park Paddle Information Sheet

Description: The Ichetucknee is a crystal clear spring fed river that runs about 6 miles in a southwesterly direction to the Santa Fe River. This paddle includes another 4 miles on the Santa Fe River. Shorter paddles are available, with other takeouts available within the State Park boundaries.. The upper part of the river contains eight major springs. The springs and river were used by early cultures of Native Americans, going back thousands of years. Bones and teeth of fauna have been found in and alongside the river.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 9.8 Miles/4.5 Hours

Launch Site: Ichetucknee Springs SP North Gate

Takeout Site: William Guy Lemon Park

Special Considerations: This park is extremely busy, especially during the summer months and especially on weekends. The park may closed to paddlers when the limit of 100 boats is reached, or after 11:00 AM. Also, the river may be closed due to high water. Contact the park before heading there. State Park fee. Shuttle required.

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.