

S28 Day Paddles and Overnight Camp Trips - Santa Fe River

High Springs Ramp to Santa Fe River Park Paddle Information Sheet

Description: There are multiple emergency takeouts along this this paddle, and plenty of springs to visit. Water is tannic, with some clear areas near the various springs. During periods of low water, there may be shallow shoals that may require short pull-overs. The Santa Fe is a State Designated Paddling Trail, and joins the Suwannee shortly after the takeout at the end of the trip. The river is mostly cypress lined, with some hardwood forests. It offers multiple opportunities to swim around the areas where the springs meet the river. Contact Outfitters listed below for shuttle services.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 12.7 Miles/6Hours

Launch Site: High Springs Ramp (US 41)

Takeout Site: Santa Fe River Park Ramp

Outfitters: Adventure Outpost, Rum 138, and Santa Fe Canoe Outpost

Special Considerations: Recommend paddling on weekdays and or when school is in session due to the popularity of this section of the river. River levels at the SRWMD gauge at the US 441 Bridge should be above 32 feet for adequate water between US 441 and US 27. If river levels are below 31.5 feet at the same gauge, there will be some shallow spots below the US 27 Bridge that may require pushing or pulling your boat for short stretches. Shuttling 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.