

S28 Day Paddles and Overnight Camp Trips - Santa Fe River

Santa Fe River Overnight Camp Trip Information Sheet

Description: This 2 day trip covers the Lower Santa Fe, and offers a primary campsite and an alternative campsite. The primary, Ginny Springs, can be very busy and noisy. If you seek a more quiet camping area, opt for the alternative campgrounds at Bowman's Landing, about 16.7 miles into the trip. There are multiple emergency takeouts along both legs of 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. The Santa Fe River joins the Suwannee shortly after the takeout at the end of the trip.

Skill Level: Advanced

Distance/Approximate Time: Day 1: 8.8 Miles/4 Hours; Day 2: 19.3Miles/7 Hours

Launch Site: High Springs Ramp (Off US 41)

Campsite: Ginny Springs Outdoors LLC

Takeout Site: GC Butler Landing Ramp

Special Considerations: Camping fee. Best paddled on weekdays and/ when school is in session, due to its popularity. Reservations required. Shuttling required at end of trip.

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.