

S28 Day Paddles and Overnight Camp Trips - Santa Fe River

Upper Santa Fe River and Olustee Creek Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This paddle generally has very little boating traffic, and is undeveloped through its entire length. There are several short side trips and the Magnitude 1 Santa Fe Spring along the river. If the water levels aren't too high, there are several places to land and take a break. Depending on water levels, and deadfall, you can usually only go about 1/4 mile up the Olustee Creek and, at that juncture, only about another 1/2 mile up the Santa Fe River before they become impassable. Olustee Creek is one of the main tributaries of the Santa Fe. There are numerous Bald Cypress, Tupelo and Willow trees along the river. The Olustee Creek is the location of the famous Civil War Battle of Olustee in 1864 when the Confederates successfully fought off Union troops.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 7.8 Miles/4 Hours

Launch Site: Bible Road Ramp

Special Considerations: Current is usually slow except after periods of heavy rain.

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.