

S18 Day Paddles - ICW

Information Sheet

Description: The Silver River flows five miles from the head spring to its confluence with the Ocklawaha River, completely within the confines and protection of Silver Springs State Park. The river offers a wide, wild and scenic paddle through Florida's heartland. This is a first-magnitude spring, and is the largest natural artesian spring in the world, producing 550 million gallons of water/day. Fauna you may see include alligators, turtles, otters, deer, wood ducks, osprey, anhingas, cormorants, egrets, herons, ibis, and non-native Rhesus monkeys. Flora you will see include cypress, cabbage palm, loblolly bay, Dahoon-holly, sweetgum and red maple, in addition to sawgrass, spatterdock, cardinal flower, pickerelweed, duck potato and Bartram's airplant. The water is crystal clear.

Skill Level: Novice

Distance/Approximate Time: 5.5 Miles/3 Hours

Launch Site: Silver Springs State Park Paddle Launch

Takeout Site: Ray's Wayside Park Paddle Launch

Special Considerations: Canoes, kayaks and SUP rentals available at the Park. Shuttle back from Ray's Wayside can be arranged with the Park. Please be aware that this is an extremely popular river especially in the summer on weekends and holidays.

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.