

S29 Day Paddles - Upper Ocklawaha River

Moss Bluff North Ramp to Ray's Wayside Park Paddle Information Sheet

Description: The Ocklawaha River starts at Lake Griffin and flows northward 74 miles to the St Johns. Ocklawaha is derived from the Creek word for "muddy". There are 2 water control structures along the entire river, the Moss Bluff Spillway and the Rodman Dam. This section starts at Moss Bluff North, above the spillway. North of Moss Bluff the berm is on the west side, and parts on the east side and you may see people walking and biking on the west side. North of the spillway has stretches where the berm does not have any trees along it, just tall grasses growing in the water along the shore line which block paddlers from pulling up to get out. The berms and trees offer limited opportunities for wildlife viewing. The long straight canal runs get shorter and a little less boring as you approach the last stretch of your paddle. As you near the end, look for the confluence of the Silver River your left. If you reach the SR 40 bridge, you've gone too far.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 13.5 Miles/ 6 Hours

Launch Site: Moss Bluff North Ramp

Takeout Site: Ray's Wayside Park

Special Considerations: Launch fee. This paddle requires shuttling.

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.