

S2 Day Paddles - Yellow River

Milligan to Eglin AFB - Metts Bluff Paddle Information Sheet

Description: The Yellow River takes paddlers along sand and gravel banks downstream. Hardwood forests frame the shallow, golden water. Farther downstream, the river deepens and slows as it passes through cypress and gum swamps. Fishing is excellent and wildlife abundant as the river winds through miles of public conservation lands.

Skill Level: Advanced, due to distance

Distance/Approximate Time: 15.5 Miles/6 Hours

Launch Site: Milligan Paddle Launch

Takeout Site: Eglin AFB—Metts Bluff Paddle Launch (Permit Required)

Special Considerations: This river has a steep gradient and is fast flowing. The degree of difficulty of this trail depends entirely on water levels which can fluctuate dramatically in a short period of time. Water levels are best when the USGS gauge is at least 1 to 2 feet near Milligan. Permits are required from Eglin AFB <https://eglin.isportsman.net/outdoorrecpermits.aspx>. Always make sure the day of the paddle that this area is not closed due to military exercises. Check with the Public Access Map <https://eglin.isportsman.net/files/Public%20Access%20Map%20%28PAM%29%2FRecmap.pdf>. This paddle requires shuttling vehicles.

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.