

## Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Upper Ochlockonee

**Leg 1 - SR 12 to Old Bainbridge Rd Paddle Information Sheet**

**Description:** Launch at the SR 12 bridge and head down stream along this increasingly twisting undeveloped river that originates in GA. This is the most challenging section of the Upper Ochlockonee River. There are several oxbows or small loops on your way down that you can take. Just be aware that they will add to your distance if taken. Continue to the takeout at the CR 157 bridge on your right..

**Skill Level:** Intermediate

**Distance/Time:** 13.8 Miles/Approximately 5 hours

**Launch Site:** SW side of SR 12 bridge

**Takeout Site:** NE corner of CR 157 (Old Bainbridge Road) bridge

**Special Considerations:** Can be challenging due to deadfall and snags, especially after storms and/or during periods of low water levels. Best paddled when the gage at the HWY 27 river crossing is 13' or higher.

**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.