

Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Wacissa River

Leg 1 - Wacissa Springs County Park to Goose Pasture Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Launch at Wacissa Springs County Park and head down stream through the wild rice and cypress swamp that line the river. There is a multitude of springs on this upper stretch (See Wacissa Springs Map Insert). Most are close to the river if you wish to explore, just keep an eye out on both sides of the river for small clear creeks flowing into the river. Continue south to the takeout at Goose Pasture on your left.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Time: 10.7 Miles/Approximately 4 hours

Launch Site: Wacissa Springs County Park

Takeout Site: Goose Pasture

Special Considerations: Launch site and downriver to Big Blue Spring is usually very busy on weekends and in the summer months. Occasional deadfall and snags, especially after storms and periods of low water. GPS highly recommended due to the many ribbon side creeks. Best paddled on high or incoming tide. 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.