

Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Wacissa River

Leg 2 - Goose Pasture Paddle to Mandalay Ramp Information Sheet

Description: Launch at Goose Pasture and stay to the right as it forks. Continue south through this cypress and hardwood lined pristine clear river until you get to the entrance to the Slave Canal on your right. The Slave canal was built by hand by hard working slaves in the 1850s to help join the Wacissa and Aucilla rivers for the purpose of a better route to ship cotton. Continue south until both rivers connect at the HWY 98 bridge and stay to the right. The Wacissa will join the Aucilla again in about 1.3 miles. Continue to the Mandalay takeout on your left.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Time: 7.4 Miles/Approximately 4 hours

Launch Site: Goose Pasture

Takeout Site: Mandalay Ramp on the Aucilla River

Special Considerations: Can be challenging due to deadfall and snags, especially after storms and periods of low water. GPS highly recommended due to numerous side ribbon creeks, and to find the entrance to the Slave Canal. In general, stay to the right on this stretch, and follow the current. 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.