

Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Wacissa River

Wacissa River Primitive Camp Trip Information Sheet

Description: Launch at Wacissa Springs County Park Ramp and paddle down stream to Goose Pasture campsite on your left. Second day is on leg 2 which takes you through the Slave Canal, under the HWY 98 bridge and down to the Mandalay takeout on your left.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Time: Day 1: 10.7 Miles/Approximately 4 hours; Day 2: 7.4 Miles

Launch Site: Wacissa Springs County Park Ramp

Campsite: Goose Pasture

Takeout Site: Mandalay Ramp - Aucilla River

Special Considerations: Camping at Goose Pasture is on a first come first serve basis. Fill out a free permit upon arrival. Camping is closed during general gun hunting season (mid December through mid January). GPS recommended due to numerous ribbon side creeks and finding the entrance to Slave Creek. Stay to the right on the second leg, otherwise you will be led back to the Aucilla which dead ends where it goes underground, and prevents you from getting back to your vehicle.

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.