

Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Yankeetown Area

Upper Withlacoochee River Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Leave a vehicle at Winding River Gardens and proceed east on CR40 past HWY 19 to Buddy Risher Park on your right. Launch area is straight into the park and turn right at the canal and go all the way to the end. From there, paddle the down the tannic waters of the Withlacoochee from the Inglis Lock of the now defunct Cross Florida Barge Canal, to Winding River Gardens passing by the towns of Inglis and most of Yankeetown along the river's north bank.

Skill Level: Novice

Distance/Time: 5.2 Miles/2 1/2 Hours

Launch Site: Buddy Risher Park off CR 40 East

Special Considerations: This paddle requires shuttling. Difficult launching area.

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.