

Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Withlacoochee Area

Rainbow River Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Launch site is at the KP Hole Park. This is a crystal clear spring fed river, however it is also extremely popular in the summer months when school is out, and parking can fill up early on busy days. You'll see plenty of wildlife, including plenty of turtles and fish, as well as plenty of anhingas, cormorants, shorebirds and wood ducks. Curious otters are often seen on the river. Recommend weekdays once school is in session. Also, paddling above the launch sites up to the headsprings tends to have much less traffic. Dunnellon has recently been designated as a Blueway Community by the Florida Paddling Trails Association.

Skill Level: Beginner/Novice

Distance/Time: 3.8 Miles/2 hours

Launch Site: KP Hole - 9435 SW 190th Ave Rd. Dunnellon

Takeout Site: Dunnellon Blue Run Park, 485 Pennsylvania Ave (SR 484)

Special Considerations: Parking/Shuttle Fees. There is an outfitter near the take-out area in Dunnellon where you can rent kayaks and arrange for a shuttle, including if you are using your own paddle craft. Contact Rainbow River Canoe & Kayak 12121 Riverview in Dunnellon regarding rentals and shuttling services if needed.

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.