

Coastal, Rivers and Blueways Trails - Withlacoochee River (South)

Upper Trail Leg 2 Information Sheet

Description: This leg winds westward, goes under the SR 98 bridge then turns northward to the next campsite at Silver Lake. There are a couple of alternative campsites in the Withlacoochee State Forest on this leg near Silver Lake. The first one you pass is the Crooked River Campground on your left and the second is the River Junction Rec Area on your right at the confluence of the Little Withlacoochee and the Withlacoochee Rivers. The closest campsite to the water at Crooked River is #62. Both are part of the Silver Lake Recreational Area Complex. Reservations are recommended at Reserve America.

Skill Level: Intermediate /Advanced due to distance

Distance/Time: 17 Miles/6 Hours

Start Site: Withlacoochee RV Park

End Site: Silver Lake Rec Area

Special Considerations: Check water levels with the Nobleton Canoe Outpost before departure. Occasionally during long droughts, sections of this river can become too shallow to paddle. Waterfront campsites at River Junction include 12,14 and 16. Also campsite #1 is a walk-up only and is on the water.

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.