

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

Upper Trail Leg 7 Information Sheet

Description: Once you depart from Anglers Resort, the river heads in a generally westward direction toward Lake Rousseau, also known as “The Backwaters” by the locals. Lake Rousseau is an area that was originally flooded by a small hydroelectric dam built by the local power company, Camp Phosphate, in 1909. Later, ownership was assumed by Florida Power Corp. and it ceased generating electricity in 1965. Although the Lake is full of submerged stumps, there remains the original marked river channel through the lake. This is a great area for birders.

Skill Level: Intermediate/Advanced due to distance

Distance/Time: 14.2 Miles/6 Hours

Start Site: Anglers Resort in Dunnellon

Take-out Site: Dessie Prescott Park by the dam at the western end of Lake Rousseau

Special Considerations: Submerged stumps in Lake Rousseau, if you paddle off the marked channel

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.