

THE BLACKWATER PADDLER'S GUIDE

YOUR COMPLETE FIELD COMPANION FOR
THE UNTAMED SOUTH



WHERE THE MAP ENDS,

THE WILD BEGINS!!

- THE DEFINITIVE PRE-TRIP CHECKLIST
- ESSENTIAL GEAR GUIDE & RECOMMENDATIONS
- DETAILED OKEFENOKEE SWAMP & SOUTHERN RIVERS MAPS

**STAY
RUGGED!!**



WHERE THE MAP ENDS, THE WILD BEGINS

BLACKWATER OUTDOOR JOURNEYS PRE-TRIP CHECKLIST & GEAR GUIDE

If you've watched my video you know the Okefenokee or Blackwater rivers are not just a place -- they're an experience. The checklist below is a result of years of trial and error, so you can focus on the solitude and beauty, not on what you forgot to pack."

SAFETY & NAVIGATION

Wilderness Permit (Printed)
Detailed Map of Your Route
Compass and/or GPS
Headlamp with fresh batteries (and spares)
Personal Flotation Device (PFD)
First Aid Kit
Emergency Whistle
Satellite Messenger/PLB
(strongly recommended)

SHELTER & SLEEP

Hammock with netting & rain fly or
Tent or Tarp shelter
Sleeping bag (temperature rating for the
season)
Sleeping pad
Pillow (personal comfort item)

PERSONAL ITEMS & CLOTHING

Quick drying clothing (layers are key)

PRIMITIVE SKILLS & BUSHCRAFT

High-quality knife or multi-tool
Fire-starting kit (lighter, tinder)
Cordage (Paracord)
Water filter or purification tablets
Small hatchet or saw (for fire wood)

FOOD & WATER

Water Bottles or hydration bladder.
Food for each day (plus one day extra)
Cooking pot & utensils
Camp stove
Mug or cups for drinking

RODNEY'S BLACKWATER PRO TIPS

1. ALL ABOUT THE PADDLE

"The right paddle is made of the right material—wood for comfort or carbon fiber for lightweight efficiency—and it's the right length for you, not the canoe

2. THE RIGHT REPELLENT

The right repellent has a CDC-approved active ingredient like DEET, Picaridin, or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus. For short trips, a low concentration is fine, but for all-day adventures, you'll need a higher percentage to last. Always apply it after sunscreen and only to exposed skin.

STAY RUGGED !!

- Shop Blackwater Outdoors Branded Merch: Gear up for the wild—visit our online store for exclusive apparel and adventure essentials!
- Watch Our Latest Videos: Get inspired and learn from real outdoor journeys. Scan the QR code or visit our YouTube channel: Blackwater Outdoor Journeys
- Connect With Us: Have questions or want trip advice? Email us at info@blackwateroutdoors.com for updates, tips, and community stories.

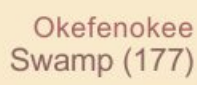




A PADDLER'S MAP OKEFENOKEE SWAMP & Surrounding Rivers



Waycross



Folkston

Refuge
Headquarters

Suwannee
Canal
Recreation
Area

St Marys
River

St George

The Okefenokee Wilderness Canoe Trail System features 120 miles of non-motorized canoe and kayak trails, with seven overnight platforms and two islands.

Camping Sites:

- Round Top: 8 miles, beginner-friendly, scenic views
- Cedar Hammock: 10 miles, great for wildlife and sunset photography
- Maul Hammock: 12 miles, ideal for solitude and stargazing
- Minnies Lake: 10 miles, known for alligator sightings and birdwatching
- Coffee Bay: 9 miles, peaceful paddling, suitable for beginners
- Buzzards Roost: 11 miles, updated facilities and scenic routes
- Bluff Lake: 12 miles, good for guided trips and group camping
- Floyds Island: 10–12 miles, traditional camping with campfires
- Mixon's Hammock: 10 miles, ideal for bushcraft and solitude



Essential Tips:

- Permits required for overnight trips
- Launch before 10 AM for safety
- Gear: PFDs, portable camp stove, drinking water, bug spray

Follow color-coded signs and mile markers; avoid wildlife



Round Top Platform – 1-Night Canoe Camping Plan

Trip Type: Out-and-back
Launch Point: Kingfisher Landing
Distance: ~8 miles one-way
Skill Level: Beginner-friendly
Reservation: Available online



Day 1 Itinerary:

Launch by 10 AM for sunset arrival.
Paddle Green Trail (3–4 hours with breaks).
Arrive at Round Top platform, set up camp, ^{remove *}enjoy sunset, prepare dinner.

Day 2 Itinerary:

Early wake-up for sunrise and breakfast.
Depart by 10 AM, return to Kingfisher Landing.

Gear Checklist:

Canoe/kayak, paddles, PFDs (mandatory for all; kids under 13 must wear).
Wilderness Camping Permit (printed copy).
Waterproof dry bags, tent (7'x7' or smaller), sleeping bag (30°F or lower), camping pad, headlamp, bug spray, sunscreen, first aid kit, trash bags (Leave No Trace).

Optional:

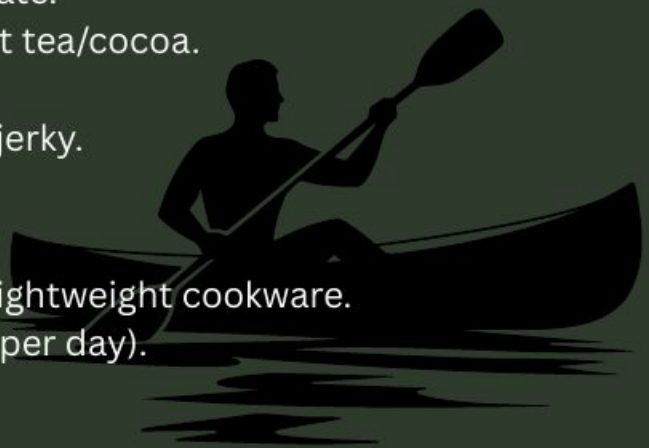
Lightweight camp chair, binoculars, waterproof camera/phone.

Food Plan:

Day 1 Lunch: Crackers, hard salami, cheese, chocolate.
Day 1 Dinner: Freeze-dried meal (e.g., chili mac), hot tea/cocoa.
Day 2 Breakfast: Instant oatmeal, coffee.
Snacks: Trail mix, protein bars, peanut butter, beef jerky.

Cooking Setup:

Small propane stove (no campfires on platforms), lightweight cookware.
Water: Bring all drinking water (1 gallon per person per day).



Wildlife & Safety:

Expect alligators, frogs, owls; do not feed or approach wildlife.
Stay on trails/platforms; no swimming or pets allowed.
Sign in/out at entrance logbook.

Cedar Hammock Platform – 1-Night Canoe Camping Plan

Trip Type: Out-and-back

Launch Point: Suwannee Canal Recreation Area

Distance: ~10 miles one-way

Skill Level: Beginner to Intermediate

Reservation Status: Available online



Day 1 Itinerary:

Launch by 9:30 AM for wildlife viewing. Paddle the Orange Trail through cypress groves, spending 4–5 hours with breaks for birdwatching. Arrive at Cedar Hammock in the afternoon, set up camp, and enjoy views. Watch sunset reflections over the water.

Day 2 Itinerary:

Wake early for morning mist and bird calls. Have breakfast and coffee. Depart by 10 AM, returning via the Orange Trail.

Gear Checklist:

Required: Canoe/kayak, paddles, PFDs, camping permit, waterproof bags, tent (7'x7' max), sleeping bag, camping pad, headlamp, bug spray, first aid kit, trash bags, map. Optional: Camp chair, binoculars, camera, towel.

Food Plan:

Day 1 Lunch: Peanut butter wraps, trail mix, electrolyte drink.

Day 1 Dinner: Pasta primavera, herbal tea, cookies.

Day 2 Breakfast: Granola with powdered milk, coffee.

Snacks: Protein bars, seeds, jerky, fruit leather.

Cooking Setup: Small propane stove, lightweight cookware, biodegradable soap.



Water:

Bring all drinking water (1 gallon/person/day).

Wildlife & Safety:

Expect alligators, frogs, owls, ibis, and turtles—observe from a distance. Do not feed or approach wildlife; stay on trails and platforms. No swimming or pets allowed; sign in/out at the entrance logbook. Limited cell service—carry a whistle and backup light.

Maul Hammock Platform – 2-Night Canoe Camping Plan

Trip Type: Loop route

Launch Point: Stephen C. Foster State Park

Distance: ~12 miles to Maul Hammock, ~10 miles to Bluff Lake, ~8 miles return

Skill Level: Intermediate

Reservation: Available at recreation.gov



Day 1

Launch by 9 AM from Stephen C. Foster.

Paddle the Red Trail for 5–6 hours.

Arrive at Maul Hammock, set up camp, stargaze.

Day 2

Wake early for sunrise and birdwatching; breakfast and pack up.

Paddle ~10 miles to Bluff Lake via the Yellow Trail; set up camp, relax.

Day 3

Early breakfast and pack-up.

Paddle ~8 miles back to the launch point via the Green Trail (3–4 hours).

Gear Checklist

Required: Canoe/kayak, paddles, PFDs, Wilderness Camping Permit, waterproof bags, tent, sleeping bag, camping pad, headlamp, bug spray, first aid kit, trash bags, trail maps.

Optional: Camp chair, binoculars, camera, hammock.

Food Plan

Day 1 Lunch: Tuna salad wraps, trail mix, drink.

Day 1 Dinner: Freeze-dried stew, tea, cookies.

Day 2 Breakfast: Instant grits, coffee.

Day 2 Lunch: Crackers, peanut butter, dried mango.

Day 2 Dinner: Pasta with olive oil, tea, granola bar.

Day 3 Breakfast: Oatmeal, coffee.

Snacks: Protein bars, seeds, fruit leather, jerky.



Cooking Setup

Small propane stove, lightweight cookware, biodegradable soap.

Water: Bring all drinking water (1 gallon per person per day).

Wildlife & Safety

Expect owls, alligators, herons.

Do not feed wildlife; stay on trails/platforms; no swimming or pets.

Limited cell service; carry a whistle and backup light.

Bluff Lake may have faint city light reflections—use red light for night vision.

Minnies Lake Platform – 1-Night Canoe Camping

Trip Type: Out-and-back

Launch: Billy's Lake via Stephen C. Foster State Park

Distance: ~10 miles one-way

Skill Level: Beginner to Intermediate

Reservation: [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov)



Day 1:

Launch by 9:30 AM for wildlife viewing. Paddle Red Trail for 4–5 hours with breaks. Arrive at Minnies Lake by afternoon. Set up camp, enjoy views, and have dinner.

Day 2:

Wake early for morning mist; breakfast and coffee. Pack and depart by 10 AM via Red Trail.

Gear:

Required: Canoe/kayak, PFDs, permit, waterproof bags, tent, sleeping bag, camping pad, headlamp, bug spray, first aid kit, trash bags, map.

Optional: Chair, guidebook, camera, binoculars, towel.

Food:

Day 1 Lunch: Tuna wraps, trail mix, water/electrolyte drink.

Day 1 Dinner: Rice and beans, tea/cider, chocolate/cookies.

Day 2 Breakfast: Instant grits, coffee.

Snacks: Protein bars, seeds, jerky, fruit leather.

Cooking:

Small propane stove, cookware, biodegradable soap.

Water:

1 gallon per person per day in collapsible containers.

Wildlife & Safety:

Expect alligators, frogs, birds. Observe from a distance, no feeding. No swimming or pets.

Sign in/out at logbook. Limited cell service; carry whistle and backup light.



Coffee Bay Platform – 1-Night Canoe Camping Plan

Trip Type: Out-and-back

Launch Point: Kingfisher Landing

Distance: ~9 miles one-way

Skill Level: Beginner-friendly

Reservation: Available at [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov/camping/gateways/274)



Day 1 Itinerary:

Launch by 10 AM from Kingfisher Landing. Paddle along the Green Trail through pine uplands and prairie (3–4 hours with breaks). Arrive at Coffee Bay platform by mid-afternoon, set up camp, and enjoy the surroundings. Known for peaceful sunrises and wildlife sightings.

Day 2 Itinerary:

Wake early for sunrise, have breakfast, pack up, and depart by 10 AM. Return via the same trail to Kingfisher Landing.

Gear Checklist:

Required: Canoe/kayak, paddles, PFDs, Wilderness Camping Permit, waterproof dry bags, tent, sleeping bag, camping pad, headlamp, bug spray, first aid kit, trash bags, trail map.

Optional Comforts: Lightweight camp chair, binoculars, camera, journal, towel.

Food Plan:

Day 1 Lunch: Whole wheat wraps, trail mix, water/electrolyte drink.

Day 1 Dinner: Macaroni and cheese, herbal tea, cookies.

Day 2 Breakfast: Instant oatmeal, coffee.

Snacks: Protein bars, sunflower seeds, fruit leather, beef jerky.

Cooking Setup: Small propane stove, lightweight cookware, biodegradable soap.

Water: Bring all drinking water (1 gallon per person per day).

Wildlife & Safety:

Expect cranes, hawks, frogs, and alligators—observe from a distance. No feeding wildlife, stay on designated trails, no swimming or pets. Limited cell service—carry a whistle and backup light. Platform includes a pit toilet and picnic shelf.



Buzzards Roost Platform – 1-Night Canoe Camping Plan

Trip Type: Out-and-back

Launch Point: Suwannee Canal Recreation Area

Distance: Approximately 11 miles one-way

Skill Level: Intermediate

Reservation Status: Available online



Day 1 Itinerary:

Launch by 9 AM for a steady paddle. Navigate through open prairie and cypress corridors; expect 5-6 hours on the water with breaks. Arrive at Buzzards Roost platform by late afternoon; set up camp and enjoy improved facilities. Evening sounds include barred owls and tree frogs.

Day 2 Itinerary:

Wake early to enjoy nature sounds, have breakfast, pack up, and depart by 10 AM. Return via the Orange Trail.

Gear Checklist:

Required: Canoe/kayak, paddles, PFDs, Wilderness Camping Permit, waterproof bags, tent, sleeping gear, headlamp, bug spray, first aid kit, trash bags, trail map, toilet paper.

Optional: Camp chair, binoculars, waterproof camera, journal, towel, rain poncho.

Food Plan:

Day 1 Lunch: Whole wheat wraps, trail mix, drinks.

Day 1 Dinner: Foil packet chicken and potatoes, tea, cookies.

Day 2 Breakfast: Instant oatmeal and coffee.

Snacks: Protein bars, seeds, fruit leather, jerky.

Cooking Setup:

Small propane stove, lightweight cookware, biodegradable soap.

Water:

Bring all drinking water; minimum of 1 gallon per person per day.

Wildlife & Safety:

Expect owls, frogs, alligators, herons; observe from a distance. Stay on trails, no swimming or pets, sign in/out, limited cell service, and proper composting toilet use.



Bluff Lake Platform – 2-Night Canoe Camping Plan

This is a loop route with a launch point at Stephen C. Foster State Park. The journey covers approximately 12 miles to Bluff Lake, 10 miles to Maul Hammock, and 8 miles for the return. It's suited for those with intermediate skill levels. Reservations can be made at [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov).

Day 1

launch by 9 AM and paddle the Yellow Trail for 5 to 6 hours to reach Bluff Lake. Set up camp upon arrival.

Day 2

begins with an early sunrise and birdwatching session, followed by breakfast. Paddle about 10 miles to Maul Hammock via the Red Trail, set up camp, and indulge in stargazing.

Day 3

have an early breakfast, pack up, and paddle approximately 8 miles back using the Green Trail.

Required gear

a canoe or kayak, paddles, PFDs, a camping permit, waterproof bags, a tent, a sleeping bag, a headlamp, bug spray, a first aid kit, trash bags, and trail maps. Optional items are a camp chair, camera, binoculars, hammock, and fire starter.

The food plan for Day 1 includes turkey wraps and trail mix for lunch, followed by pasta, herbal tea, and cookies for dinner. On Day 2, start with grits and coffee for breakfast, have crackers, peanut butter, and dried mango for lunch, and enjoy lentil stew with hot tea for dinner. Day 3's breakfast consists of oatmeal and coffee. Snacks include protein bars, seeds, and jerky.

For cooking, bring a small propane stove, lightweight cookware, and biodegradable soap.

Ensure to bring all drinking water, with a minimum of 1 gallon per person per day.

Wildlife to expect includes herons, owls, frogs, and alligators, which should be observed from a distance. Do not feed wildlife, stay on trails, and note that swimming and pets are not allowed. Remember to sign in and out at the entrance logbook, as cell service is limited.

The Bluff Lake platform provides a roof, a pit toilet, and views of the lake.



Floyds Island – 2-Night Canoe Camping Plan

Trip Details:

Type: Out-and-back or loop (Mixon's Hammock)

Launch Points: Kingfisher Landing or Suwannee Canal Recreation Area

Distance: 10–12 miles one way

Skill Level: Intermediate to Advanced

Reservation: Available at [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov)



Itinerary:

Day 1: Launch by 9 AM, paddle via Green or Orange Trail (5–6 hours), set up camp at Floyds Island, enjoy dinner and a campfire, explore cabin if accessible.

Day 2: Early breakfast, optional paddle to Mixons Hammock or explore trails, return for second night at Floyds Island.

Day 3: Early breakfast, pack up, paddle back (4–5 hours).

Gear Checklist:

Required: Canoe/kayak, PFDs, camping permit, waterproof bags, tent, sleeping gear, headlamp, bug spray, first aid kit, trash bags, trail maps, fire starter, small shovel.

Optional: Camp chair, binoculars, camera, journal, folding saw.

Food Plan:

Day 1 Lunch: Wraps, trail mix, drinks.

Day 1 Dinner: Foil packet meal, tea, s'mores.

Day 2 Breakfast: Pancakes, coffee.

Day 2 Lunch: Crackers, peanut butter, drinks.

Day 2 Dinner: Chili, cornbread, dessert.

Day 3 Breakfast: Instant oatmeal, coffee.

Snacks: Protein bars, seeds, jerky.



Cooking Setup:

Campfire cooking allowed with necessary equipment.

Water:

Bring all drinking water (1 gallon per person per day).

Wildlife & Safety:

Be alert for wildlife, follow safety guidelines, limited cell service; carry a whistle and backup light.

Mixon's Hammock Canoe Camping Plan (1-2 Nights)

Trip Overview

Launch from Kingfisher Landing, about 10 miles one-way. Intermediate skill level; reservations needed via [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov).

Day 1 Itinerary

Depart by 9 AM, paddle Green Trail for 4-5 hours. Arrive at Mixon's Hammock by mid-afternoon. Dinner, then optional exploration or relaxation.

Day 2 Itinerary (Optional)

Breakfast, then paddle to Floyds Island (6-mile round trip) or hike. Choose to stay another night or return.

Day 3 Itinerary (if staying two nights)

Early breakfast, pack gear, and paddle back (4-5 hours).

Gear Checklist

Canoe/kayak, paddles, PFDs, Wilderness Camping Permit, waterproof bags, tent, sleeping bag, camping pad, headlamp, bug spray, first aid kit, trash bags, trail map, fire starter, small shovel. Optional: Hammock, lightweight chair, binoculars, camera, folding saw, tarp.

Food Plan

Day 1: Lunch - wraps, trail mix; Dinner - foil veggies, s'mores. Day 2: Breakfast - burritos; Lunch - crackers, peanut butter; Dinner - stew, granola bars. Day 3: Breakfast - oatmeal; snacks - protein bars, jerky.

Cooking Setup

Use campfire cooking with lightweight cookware; bring 1 gallon of water per person per day.

Wildlife & Safety

Expect wildlife; stay on trails, avoid swimming and pets. Carry a whistle and backup light, limited cell service.



Okefenokee Swamp to Fargo – 1-Day Canoe Camping Plan

Trip Overview:

Type: One-way paddle
Launch: Suwannee Canal Recreation Area
Take-Out: Fargo Ramp
Distance: ~16 miles
Skill Level: Beginner to Intermediate
Paddle Time: 6–8 hours
No overnight permit required



Itinerary:

Launch by 8:30 AM, paddle through Suwannee Canal
Lunch at Billy's Lake or shaded area
Arrive at Fargo Ramp by late afternoon

Gear Checklist:

Required: Canoe/kayak, paddles, PFDs, waterproof bags, map, GPS/compass, first aid kit, bug spray, whistle, trash bags, phone in waterproof case
Optional: Camp cushion, binoculars, camera, towel, dry clothes

Food Plan:

Breakfast: Peanut butter toast/granola, coffee/electrolyte drink
Lunch: Tortilla wraps, trail mix, water
Snacks: Protein bars, fruit leather, sunflower seeds, jerky
Water: Minimum 2 gallons per person; no refill points

Wildlife & Safety:

Expect alligators, turtles, owls, frogs
Stay in the main channel; no swimming or pets
Limited cell service; carry a whistle and backup light



Scenic Highlights:

Billy's Lake: Birdwatching
Narrows: Cypress tree reflections
Floyds Island Junction: Future trip detour option

2-Day Canoe Camping Plan: Fargo to Big Shoals

Trip Type: One-way paddle with overnight camp

Launch: Fargo Ramp (US 441 Bridge)

Take-Out: Big Shoals State Park

Distance: ~26 miles

Skill Level: Intermediate

Paddle Time: ~6–7 hours/day

Reservation: Primitive camping available



Day 1:

Launch by 9 AM

Paddle through cypress trees

Lunch at a sandy bank

Camp near Stephen Foster State Park



Day 2:

Early breakfast

Paddle to Big Shoals State Park (portage at shoals)

Optional hike to Big Shoals overlook

Gear:

Required: Canoe, PFDs, tent, sleeping bag, first aid kit, trail map, fire starter

Optional: Camp chair, binoculars, camera, tarp shelter

Food:

Day 1 Lunch: Tortilla wraps, trail mix

Day 1 Dinner: Foil packet meal, s'mores

Day 2 Breakfast: Pancakes

Day 2 Lunch: Crackers, peanut butter



Safety:

Expect alligators; observe from a distance

Stay on the main channel; camp only at designated sites

Limited cell service; carry safety gear

Highlights:

Suwannee River Cypress Tunnel and Holton Creek

Big Shoals Overlook for whitewater views

1-Day Canoe Camping Itinerary: Big Shoals to White Springs

Trip Overview:

Type: One-way paddle

Launch Point: Big Shoals State Park (East Entrance)

Take-Out Point: White Springs Ramp

Distance: ~8 miles

Skill Level: Intermediate

Paddle Time: 3–4 hours

Reservation: No permit needed; optional overnight camping at Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park.



Daily Itinerary:

Launch by 9 AM, avoid Class III rapids.

Paddle along limestone banks and shaded hammocks.

Lunch near the Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center.

Arrive at White Springs by early afternoon; explore the historic town if desired.

Gear Checklist:

Required: Canoe/kayak, paddles, PFDs, waterproof bags, trail map, first aid kit, bug spray, sunscreen, whistle, trash bags, waterproof phone case.

Optional: Camp cushion, binoculars, camera, towel, dry clothes, hiking shoes.

Food Plan:

Breakfast: Granola with dried fruit, coffee/electrolyte drink.

Lunch: Whole wheat wraps, trail mix, water.

Snacks: Protein bars, fruit leather, sunflower seeds.

Water: At least 1 gallon per person; no refill points available.

Wildlife & Safety:

Watch for wood ducks and turtles from a distance.

Stay in the main channel; portage around Big Shoals.

No swimming or pets; limited cell service.



Scenic Highlights:

Enjoy Big Shoals Rapids, limestone bluffs, and historic ruins of White Springs.

Day 1 Itinerary – White Springs to Woods Ferry River Camp (~12 miles)

Launch by 9 AM, paddle through scenic limestone bluffs and wildlife. Lunch at a sandy bank. Arrive at Woods Ferry, set up camp, and enjoy amenities.

Day 2 Itinerary – Woods Ferry to Lafayette Blue Springs (~14 miles)

Early breakfast and departure by 9 AM. Lunch at Ellaville Spring; arrive at Lafayette Blue Springs by mid-afternoon. Camp at reserved sites, explore, and swim if allowed.

Day 3 Itinerary – Lafayette Blue Springs to Branford (~12 miles)

Early breakfast; paddle to Branford. Lunch at Little River Springs; optional exploration of Branford.

Gear Checklist

Required: Canoe/kayak, PFDs, dry bags, tent or reservation, sleeping bag, headlamp, bug spray, first aid kit, trash bags, maps, fire starter, small shovel. Optional: Camp chair, binoculars, camera, field journal, folding saw.

Food Plan

Day 1: Lunch on water (tortilla wraps, trail mix); Dinner (foil packets, s'mores). Day 2: Breakfast (pancakes); Lunch (crackers, peanut butter); Dinner (pasta). Day 3: Breakfast (oatmeal); Lunch (tuna wraps). Snacks: Protein bars, jerky.

Cooking Setup

Campfire cooking at designated sites; bring lightweight cookware and biodegradable soap.

Water

Bring drinking water or refill at camps; minimum of 1 gallon per person per day.

Wildlife & Safety

Observe wildlife from a distance; stay on main channel; camp only at designated sites; limited cell service.

Scenic Highlights

Woods Ferry River Camp: amenities and screened platforms. Lafayette Blue Springs: swimming and shaded sites. Little River Springs: lunch stop with shallow wading areas.



2-Day Canoe Camping Itinerary: Branford to Fanning Springs

Trip Type: One-way paddle with overnight camping

Launch Point: Branford Ramp (US 27 Bridge)

Take-Out Point: Fanning Springs State Park

Distance: Approx. 22 miles

Skill Level: Beginner to Intermediate

Estimated Paddle Time: 5–6 hours per day

Reservations: Primitive camping available; check with Suwannee River Wilderness Trail or Fanning Springs State Park.



Day 1 Itinerary (Branford to Troy Springs, ~12 miles)

Launch by 9 AM; paddle with a gentle current; lunch at Little River Springs. Arrive at Troy Springs by late afternoon, set up camp, and explore the spring run.

Day 2 Itinerary (Troy Springs to Fanning Springs, ~10 miles)

Depart by 9 AM after breakfast; lunch at the confluence with Manatee Springs. Arrive at Fanning Springs by mid-afternoon; enjoy swimming or hiking.

Gear Checklist

Required: Canoe, paddles, PFDs, waterproof bags, tent, sleeping gear, first aid kit, trash bags, trail maps.

Optional: Camp chair, binoculars, camera, journal, folding saw.

Food Plan

Day 1 Lunch: Tuna wraps, trail mix, drinks.

Day 1 Dinner: Chili, cornbread, tea.

Day 2 Breakfast: Oatmeal, coffee.

Day 2 Lunch: Crackers, peanut butter, dried mango.

Snacks: Protein bars, seeds, jerky.



Wildlife & Safety

Be prepared for wildlife, observe from a safe distance, stick to main channels, and camp at designated sites.

Scenic Highlights

Little River Springs

Troy Springs and its historical wreck

Fanning Springs with picnic area

3-Day Canoe Camping Adventure: Fanning Springs to Suwannee River State Park

Trip Overview:

Type: One-way paddle with two overnight camps

Distance: ~40 miles

Skill Level: Intermediate

Estimated Paddle Time: 6–7 hours/day

Reservation: Check availability for primitive camping



Itinerary:

Day 1: Fanning Springs to Gornto Springs (~14 miles)

Launch by 9 AM; lunch at Hart Springs; camp at Gornto Springs Park.

Day 2: Gornto Springs to Anderson Springs (~13 miles)

Early start; lunch at Rock Bluff Springs; camp at Anderson Springs.

Day 3: Anderson Springs to Suwannee River State Park (~13 miles)

Early breakfast; lunch at Charles Springs; explore the park.

Gear Checklist:

Required: Canoe, PFDs, tent, sleeping gear, first aid kit, fire starter, trail maps

Optional: Camp chair, binoculars, camera, folding saw

Food Plan:

Day 1: Lunch wraps, chili for dinner

Day 2: Pancakes for breakfast, pasta for dinner

Day 3: Oatmeal for breakfast, tuna salad wraps for lunch

Wildlife & Safety:

Watch for wildlife (ibises, turtles); prioritize safety; camp at designated sites; limited cell service expected.

Scenic Highlights:

Enjoy the beauty of Gornto Springs, Rock Bluff Springs, Charles Springs, and Suwannee River State Park trails.



3-Day Canoe Camping Plan from Suwannee River State Park to the Gulf Coast

Trip Overview:

Type: One-way paddle with two overnight camps

Launch Point: Suwannee River State Park

Take-Out Point: Gulf of Mexico near Suwannee town or Shired Island

Distance: ~45–50 miles

Skill Level: Intermediate to Advanced

Estimated Paddle Time: ~6–8 hours/day

Reservation: Primitive camping available; check availability

Itinerary:



Day 1: Suwannee River State Park to Dowling Park (~15 miles)

Launch by 9 AM, paddle through historic areas, lunch, set up camp in the afternoon.

Day 2: Dowling Park to Anderson Landing (~15 miles)

Depart by 9 AM, paddle through remote areas, lunch stop, camp in the afternoon.

Day 3: Anderson Landing to Gulf Coast (~15–20 miles)

Early breakfast, paddle through brackish water, lunch before reaching the Gulf, celebrate completion.

Gear Checklist:

Required: Canoe/kayak, PFDs, tent, sleeping bag, first aid kit, trail maps.

Optional: Lightweight camp chair, binoculars, camera, bug net.

Food Plan:

Day 1: Lunch wraps, campfire chili for dinner.

Day 2: Pancakes for breakfast, pasta for dinner.

Day 3: Instant oatmeal for breakfast, tuna salad wraps for lunch.

Snacks: Protein bars, jerky, trail mix.

Wildlife & Safety:

Expect wildlife; observe from a distance.

Stay on the main channel; limited cell service.

Scenic Highlights:

Royal Springs, Suwannee Springs, salt marshes, and the Gulf Coast.



2-Day Canoe Camping Adventure: St. George to Traders Hill



Trip Overview:

Type: One-way paddle with overnight camping

Launch Point: St. George Public Boat Ramp (GA Hwy 185)

Take-Out Point: Traders Hill Boat Ramp (near Folkston, GA)

Distance: ~22 miles

Skill Level: Beginner to Intermediate

Estimated Paddle Time: 5–6 hours daily

Reservations: Primitive camping on sandbars and Traders Hill Park (check with Charlton County Parks)

Day 1 Itinerary:

Distance: ~12 miles to Sandbar Camp

Launch Time: 9 AM from St. George

Activities: Paddle through cypress-lined blackwater channels, lunch on a sandy bank, set up camp by late afternoon.

Day 2 Itinerary:

Distance: ~10 miles to Traders Hill

Wake Up: Early for sunrise and breakfast

Departure: By 9 AM, paddle through wider river sections, lunch at Camp Pinckney Landing, arrive at Traders Hill by mid-afternoon with optional camping.

Gear Checklist:

Required: Canoe/kayak, paddles, PFDs, waterproof bags, tent, sleeping bag, camping pad, headlamp, bug spray, first aid kit, trash bags, trail map, fire starter.

Optional: Camp chair, binoculars, camera, journal, folding saw, tarp shelter.

Food Plan:

Day 1: Lunch (turkey wraps), Dinner (foil packet potatoes and sausage)

Day 2: Breakfast (pancakes), Lunch (crackers with peanut butter)

Snacks: Protein bars, dried fruits, jerky

Water: Bring 1 gallon per person per day.

Wildlife & Safety:

Expect alligators, owls, frogs, turtles. Stay on the main channel, camp on elevated sandbars, no swimming or pets, limited cell service—carry a whistle and backup light.

Scenic Highlights:

Cypress tunnels, serene sandbar camping, amenities at historic Traders Hill Park.

1-Day Canoe Camping Plan: Traders Hill to Camp Pinckney

Trip Type: One-way paddle

Launch Point: Traders Hill Boat Ramp, Folkston, GA

Take-Out Point: Camp Pinckney Landing, off GA Hwy 40

Distance: ~10 miles

Skill Level: Beginner-friendly

Estimated Paddle Time: ~4–5 hours

Reservation Status: Day use only; overnight camping at Traders Hill Park or private sites downstream.



Day Itinerary:

Launch by 9 AM.

Paddle through scenic blackwater sections.

Lunch at a mid-river sandbar or near St. Marys Riverkeeper site.

Arrive at Camp Pinckney by mid-afternoon.

Option for shuttle pickup or continue downstream for overnight camping.

Gear Checklist:

Required: Canoe/kayak, paddles, PFDs, waterproof dry bags, trail map, first aid kit, bug spray, sunscreen, whistle, trash bags, waterproof phone case.

Optional: Camp cushion, binoculars, camera, towel, change of clothes, cooler.

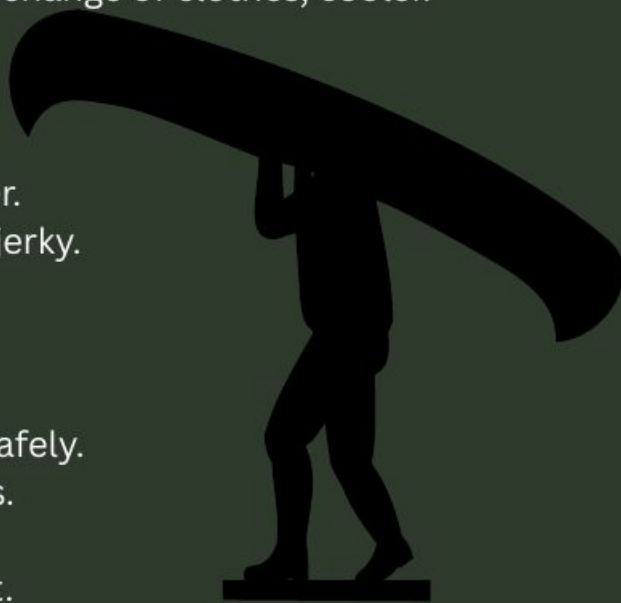
Food Plan:

Breakfast: Granola, coffee/electrolyte drink.

Lunch: Whole wheat wraps, trail mix, hydration water.

Snacks: Protein bars, fruit leather, sunflower seeds, jerky.

Water: Minimum 1 gallon per person.



Wildlife & Safety:

Expect ibis, turtles, hawks, and alligators—observe safely.

Stay on the main channel; watch for submerged logs.

No swimming or pets allowed.

Limited cell service; carry a whistle and backup light.

Scenic Highlights:

Cypress-lined bends for birdwatching.

Relaxing sandbar lunch stop.

Camp Pinckney's historic landing with easy highway access.

2-Day Canoe Camping Plan: Camp Pinckney to St. Marys, GA

Trip Type: One-way paddle with overnight camp

Launch Point: Camp Pinckney Landing

Take-Out Point: St. Marys Waterfront Park

Distance: ~20 miles

Skill Level: Intermediate

Estimated Paddle Time: ~5–6 hours/day



Day 1 Itinerary:

Launch by 9 AM, paddle ~10 miles through diverse river sections.

Lunch on a sandbar; set up camp at the sandbar campsite for dinner.

Day 2 Itinerary:

Wake early, depart by 9 AM, paddle ~10 miles through salt marshes.

Lunch near North River; arrive at St. Marys by mid-afternoon.

Gear Checklist:

Required: Canoe/kayak, PFDs, waterproof bags, tent, sleeping gear, first aid kit, trail map, fire starter, tidal chart.

Optional: Lightweight chair, binoculars, camera, tarp shelter.

Food Plan:

Day 1 Lunch: Wraps and trail mix.

Day 1 Dinner: Foil packet chicken, s'mores.

Day 2 Breakfast: Instant oatmeal, coffee.

Day 2 Lunch: Tuna wraps, trail mix.

Snacks: Protein bars, jerky.



Cooking Setup:

Campfire on sandbars allowed; bring lightweight cookware and 1 gallon of water per day.

Wildlife & Safety:

Observe wildlife from a distance; be cautious of currents and submerged logs; limited cell service.

Scenic Highlights:

Horse Creek, salt marshes, St. Marys Waterfront.

1-Day Canoe Camping Plan: Jamestown Landing to Hwy 84 Landing

Trip Type: One-way paddle

Launch Point: Jamestown Landing, near Waycross, GA

Take-Out Point: Hwy 84 Landing, near Blackshear, GA

Distance: ~9 miles

Skill Level: Beginner

Estimated Paddle Time: ~4–5 hours

Reservations: No permit; camping allowed on sandbars



Itinerary:

Launch by 9 AM. Paddle through blackwater channels with cypress and pine. Gentle current with log jams. Lunch stop around mile 5 on a sandbar. Arrive at Hwy 84 Landing by mid-afternoon. Option to camp overnight on sandbar upstream.

Gear Checklist:

Required: Canoe/kayak, paddles, PFDs, waterproof dry bags, map or GPS, first aid kit, bug spray, sunscreen, whistle, trash bags, cell phone in waterproof case.

Optional: Camp cushion, binoculars, camera, towel, cooler, tent and sleeping gear.

Food Plan:

Breakfast: Granola with dried fruit, coffee/electrolyte drink.

Lunch: Whole wheat wraps with turkey, trail mix, hydration.

Snacks: Protein bars, fruit leather, sunflower seeds, jerky.

Water: Minimum 1 gallon per person; no refill points.

Wildlife & Safety:

Expect alligators, turtles, birds; observe from a distance. Stay on the main channel; camp on high sandbars. Limited cell service; carry a whistle and backup light. Watch for snakes and ticks; wear long pants.

Scenic Highlights:

Cypress-lined bends for reflections and birdwatching. Relaxing sandbar lunch stop. Hwy 84 Landing for easy access and shuttle pickup.



2-Day Canoe Camping Plan: Ava Strickland to Deep Bend Landing

Trip Overview:

Type: One-way paddle with overnight camping

Launch: Ava Strickland Landing, near Waycross, GA

Take-Out: Deep Bend Landing, near Atkinson, GA

Distance: ~12 miles

Skill Level: Beginner to Intermediate

Paddle Time: ~5–6 hours

Reservations: No permit needed; primitive camping on sandbars allowed



Day 1 Itinerary

(Ava Strickland to Sandbar Camp - ~6 miles):

Launch by 9 AM. Paddle through shaded channels. Lunch at mile 4 on a sandbar or shaded bank. Arrive at sandbar campsite by mid-afternoon, set up camp, and enjoy the evening.

Day 2 Itinerary

(Sandbar to Deep Bend - ~6 miles):

Wake early for sunrise and breakfast. Depart by 9 AM, paddle wider river sections with wildlife. Lunch at a sandbar or oxbow lake. Arrive at Deep Bend Landing by mid-afternoon.

Gear Checklist:

Required: Canoe/kayak, PFDs, waterproof bags, tent, sleeping bag, cooking gear, first aid kit, trash bags, trail map.

Optional Comforts: Camp chair, binoculars, camera, tarp shelter, bug net.

Food Plan:

Day 1 Lunch: Wraps, trail mix, and drinks.

Day 1 Dinner: Foil packet meal and s'mores.

Day 2 Breakfast and Lunch: Oatmeal, coffee, tuna wraps, and snacks.

Water: Bring 1 gallon per person per day.



Wildlife & Safety:

Expect alligators and various birds; observe from a distance. Stay on the main channel; camp only on high sandbars. Limited cell service; carry safety gear.

Scenic Highlights:

Cypress-lined bends and tranquil sandbar camping under the stars.

3-Day Canoe Camping Plan: Still Lake Fishing Club to Satilla Lodge

Trip Details:

Type: One-way paddle with two overnight camps

Launch: Still Lake Fishing Club, GA

Take-Out: Satilla Lodge, GA

Distance: ~23 miles

Skill: Intermediate

Paddle Time: ~6–8 hours/day

Reservations: Primitive camping on sandbars; check Satilla Lodge for amenities.

Itinerary:

Day 1:

Still Lake to Burnt Fort Landing (~10 miles)

Launch by 9 AM; paddle through blackwater channels.

Lunch at a sandbar; arrive at Burnt Fort by late afternoon.

Set up camp; enjoy dinner and history of Burnt Fort.

Day 2:

Burnt Fort to Sandbar Camp (~7 miles)

Depart by 9 AM; paddle remote areas with tidal influence.

Lunch at a quiet sandbar; camp at a large sandbar by mid-afternoon.

Day 3:

Sandbar to Satilla Lodge (~6 miles)

Early breakfast; paddle through salt marsh zones.

Lunch near White Oak Creek; arrive at Satilla Lodge by mid-afternoon.

Gear Checklist:

Required: Canoe, paddles, PFDs, waterproof bags, tent, sleeping gear, cooking essentials, first aid kit, trail map, trash bags.

Optional: Camp chair, binoculars, camera, tarp shelter, bug net.

Food Plan:

Day 1: Wraps, trail mix, foil packet dinner, s'mores.

Day 2: Pancakes, snacks, pasta dinner.

Day 3: Oatmeal, wraps, snacks.

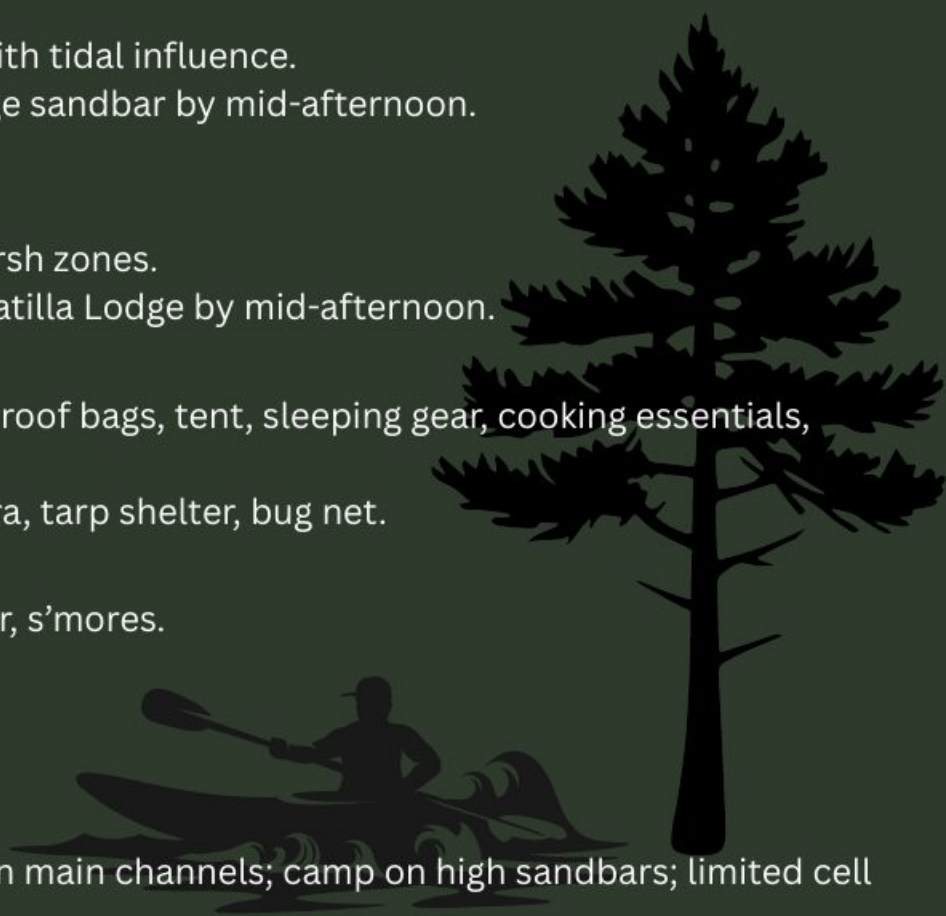
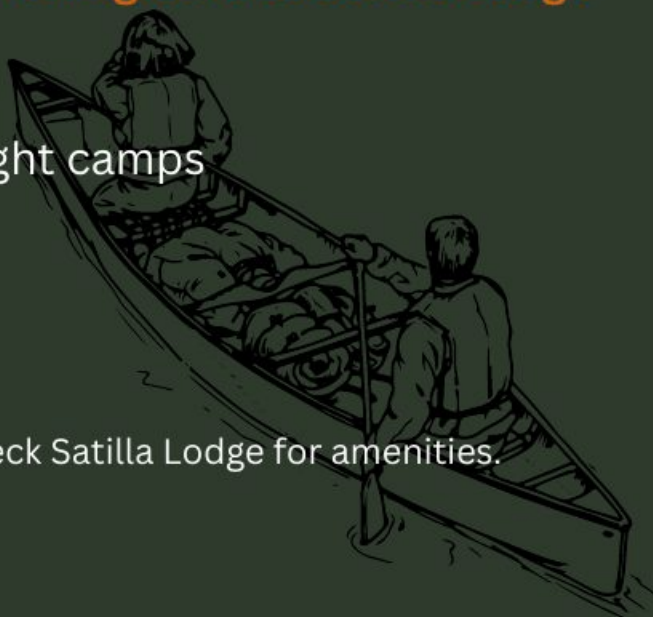
Snacks: Protein bars, jerky.

Wildlife & Safety:

Observe wildlife from a distance; stay on main channels; camp on high sandbars; limited cell service; check tide charts.

Scenic Highlights:

Historic Burnt Fort Landing, coastal salt marsh transition, Satilla Lodge amenities.



3-Day Canoe Camping Plan: Burnt Fort Landing to Satilla River Mouth

Trip Overview:

One-way paddle with two overnight camps

Distance: ~25 miles

Skill Level: Intermediate to Advanced

Estimated Paddle Time: ~6–8 hours per day

Primitive camping allowed; confirm access with local authorities.



Day Itineraries:

Day 1: Launch at 9 AM from Burnt Fort Landing, paddle ~10 miles to a sandbar near White Oak Creek. Camp above high tide; explore Burnt Fort's history.

Day 2: Depart by 9 AM for ~8 miles to a marsh-edge sandbar. Watch for dolphins and coastal birds; set up camp with tidal awareness.

Day 3: Early start, paddle ~7 miles to Satilla River Mouth. Optional pickup/shuttle from nearby locations.

Gear Checklist:

Required: Canoe, tent, sleeping bag, first aid kit

Optional: Camp chair, binoculars, field journal



Food Plan:

Day 1: Turkey wraps, sausage & potatoes, s'mores

Day 2: Pancakes, pasta, cookies

Day 3: Oatmeal, tuna wraps

Snacks: Jerky, fruit leather

Wildlife & Safety:

Expect various wildlife; camp on high sandbars; limited cell service.

Scenic Highlights:

Historic Burnt Fort Landing, salt marsh transitions, scenic Satilla River Mouth.



Alapaha River Adventure – 3-Day Canoe Camping Plan

Trip Type: One-way paddle with two overnight camps

Launch Point: Highway 135 Bridge (near Willacoochee, GA)

Take-Out Point: Statenville River Access (near Statenville, GA)

Distance: ~24 miles

Skill Level: Intermediate

Estimated Paddle Time: ~6–8 hours per day

Camping: Primitive camping on sandbars; confirm access with locals

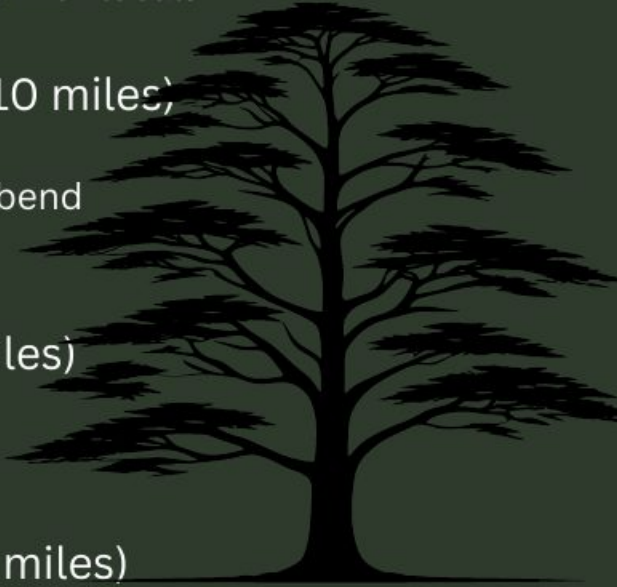


Day 1 Itinerary – Hwy 135 to Sandbar Camp (~10 miles)

Launch by 9 AM from Highway 135 Bridge

Paddle through blackwater channels; lunch on a shaded bend

Camp on a large sandbar by late afternoon



Day 2 Itinerary – Sandbar to Bluff Camp (~8 miles)

Early morning paddle through forested stretches

Lunch at an oxbow; camp on bluff-top by mid-afternoon

Day 3 Itinerary – Bluff Camp to Statenville (~6 miles)

Breakfast and pack-up; paddle through wider sections

Arrive at Statenville River Access; optional town meal or shuttle

Gear Checklist

Required: Canoe, paddles, PFDs, tent, sleeping bag, first aid kit

Optional: Camp chair, binoculars, camera



Food Plan

Day 1: Turkey wraps, sausage & potatoes dinner

Day 2: Pancakes, pasta dinner

Day 3: Oatmeal, tuna wraps lunch

Snacks: Jerky, protein bars; Water: Bring 1 gal/person/day

Wildlife & Safety

Sightings of deer, otters, herons; camp safely on high ground

Scenic Highlights

Tenmile Creek Confluence; Bluff Campsite views; Statenville amenities nearby

North Withlacoochee River – 3-Day Canoe Camping Plan

Trip Overview:

Type: One-way paddle with two overnight camps
Launch: CR 145 Bridge (Florida–Georgia border)
Take-Out: Suwannee River State Park (near Live Oak, FL)
Distance: ~32 miles
Skill: Beginner to Intermediate
Paddle Time: ~6–8 hours per day
Camping: Primitive, no fees for small groups



Day 1 Itinerary – CR 145 to CR 150 (~10 miles)

Launch: 9 AM from CR 145 Bridge
Route: Paddle through Twin Rivers State Forest; lunch at a sandbar near Pinetta.
Camp: Near CR 150 Bridge on a high sandbar or forest edge.

Day 2 Itinerary – CR 150 to Madison Blue Spring (~12 miles)

Morning: Breakfast and break camp; paddle past limestone outcrops.
Lunch: At a shaded bend; arrive at Madison Blue Spring State Park by mid-afternoon.
Camp: Nearby in Twin Rivers State Forest; optional swim in the spring.

Day 3 Itinerary – Madison Blue Spring to Suwannee River State Park (~10 miles)

Morning: Pack up and check water levels; paddle through scenic bluffs.
Lunch: Near Nicks Shoal; arrive at Suwannee River State Park by mid-afternoon.

Gear Checklist

Required: Canoe/kayak, PFDs, tent, sleeping bag, first aid kit, water (1 gal/person/day).
Optional: Camp chair, binoculars, journal.

Food Plan

Day 1: Wraps, foil packet dinner, s'mores
Day 2: Pancakes, pasta dinner
Day 3: Oatmeal, tuna wraps

Wildlife & Safety

Expect eagles, manatees, and alligators; camp on high ground.
Limited cell service—carry a whistle and backup light.

Scenic Highlights

Twin Rivers State Forest, Madison Blue Spring, and Suwannee River State Park.



South Withlacoochee River – 3-Day Canoe Camping Plan

Trip Details:

One-way paddle, two overnight camps; ~16 miles; intermediate skill level; ~5–6 hours paddling daily. Launch Point: Lacoochee Park; Take-Out Point: Silver Lake Recreation Area. Reservations: Primitive camping allowed; permits needed for groups over 6.

Day 1 Itinerary: Lacoochee to Iron Bridge (~6 miles) Launch by 9 AM; paddle through shaded channels. Lunch near CR 575 Bridge; arrive at Iron Bridge by late afternoon. Camp setup and dinner exploration.

Day 2 Itinerary: Iron Bridge to Hog Island (~5 miles) Depart by 9 AM; spot wildlife in Withlacoochee State Forest. Lunch near River Junction; arrive at Hog Island by mid-afternoon. Camp setup and enjoy the ambiance.

Day 3 Itinerary: Hog Island to Silver Lake (~5 miles) Early start; paddle through wider sections. Lunch near Croom Tract; arrive at Silver Lake by mid-afternoon. Optional swim or hike before pickup.

Gear Checklist: Required: Canoe/kayak, paddles, PFDs, dry bags, tent, sleeping bag, headlamp, bug spray, first aid kit, water (1 gal/person/day). Optional: Camp chair, binoculars, camera.

Food Plan: Day 1: Turkey wraps, foil packet dinner. Day 2: Pancakes, pasta dinner. Day 3: Oatmeal, tuna wraps.

Wildlife & Safety: Expect otters, herons, turtles, and gators; stay safe and observe from a distance. Limited cell service; carry safety equipment.

Scenic Highlights: Iron Bridge: Historic site. Hog Island: Wildlife viewing. Silver Lake: Scenic views and recreation access.





Blackwater Outdoors

Your Guide to Southeast Georgia & North Florida Waterways

Discover the Wild Blackwater Rivers & Swamps

Launched June 13, 2025, Blackwater Outdoors is a fast-growing adventure brand dedicated to the hidden gems of Southeast Georgia and North Florida. Join founder Rodney Thompson on our flagship YouTube channel, Blackwater Outdoor Journeys, for real canoeing, kayaking, camping, and fishing stories. We celebrate where the maps end and the wild begins—authentic, family-friendly explorations with Rodney, wife Tina, and the crew.

Practical Tips for Canoers

From navigating blackwater rivers to camp cooking and multi-day trip highs and lows, our content shares essential advice for your Southeast adventures. Gear up at blackwateroutdoors.co for premium canoeing equipment, branded merch, and more to enhance your journeys.

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Whitetail deer and squirrel hunting series, plus new outdoor pursuits that capture the true spirit of the wild.

Our Mission

We offer a virtual escape for armchair explorers and inspiration for active adventurers. Through immersive, family-oriented stories, we connect you to the raw beauty of river travel and wilderness camping in Georgia and Florida.

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Brands passionate about the outdoors—let's collaborate! Reach out for sponsored content, reviews, or long-term partnerships.

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WHERE THE MAP ENDS, THE WILD BEGINS

A family-run company passionate about the wilderness and the stories it holds. Explore the Untamed Beauty of South Georgia: Join us on an unforgettable adventure into the heart of South Georgia's blackwater rivers, hidden swamps, and wild backcountry. We specialize in providing immersive experiences that allow you to reconnect with nature through primitive skills, solitude, and storytelling.

Our Adventures Include:

- Canoe & Kayak Expeditions: Paddle through serene blackwater rivers and navigate the beautiful, untamed waterways.
- Camping: Experience the true wilderness by camping under the stars, with options for both remote and primitive campsites.
- Fishing: Cast a line and enjoy world-class fishing in our local rivers.
- Storytelling: Learn about the deep history and personal tales of the wilderness as told by your experienced guides.

Why Choose Blackwater Outdoor Journeys?

- Authentic Experiences: We don't just offer trips; we offer genuine journeys into the wild.
- Family-Friendly: Our adventures are perfect for creating lasting memories with loved ones.
- Expert Guides: Our experienced team is passionate about the outdoors and dedicated to ensuring a safe, fun, and memorable trip.

Stay Rugged! Follow us on our adventures and get a taste of the wild life on our YouTube channel, Blackwater Outdoor Journeys, where we share weekly vlogs of our expeditions, bushcraft skills, and family fun.

Website: [Blackwateroutdoors.co](https://blackwateroutdoors.co)

