

Aucilla River

Swift current, shoals and manmade dams make this a trail for experienced paddlers.

Description

The dark, coffee-colored waters of the Aucilla River swiftly course over shoals and the remains of two old rock dams. They make the trail a challenge, especially in low water, but they can be portaged. High limestone banks frame the trail, and the river flows through cypress-gum swamp. Wildlife you may see include river otter, hawks and a variety of wading birds.

Mileage: 19

Skill Level: Intermediate to technical

Difficulty: Moderate to strenuous

Usual Current: Swift (3+ mph)

Notes and Precautions

This river is not recommended for inexperienced paddlers. Rapids become more numerous and hazardous in low water.

Access

1. **US 27 Bridge** – One-mile southeast of Lamont.
2. **CR 257 Bridge** – 7.5 miles southwest of Lamont. (13 miles)
3. **Logging Road** – Take SR 257 south from Lamont over bridge on the Aucilla. Turn west just before Cabbage Grove Fire Tower. Continue .75 mile around first bend to the left and turn onto dirt (logging) road on the right. Follow this road 2.5 miles to its end. A trail to the right leads to landing. (6 miles)

There may be access points (both public and private) in addition to those listed here. Please remember that some sites require a fee for launching and/or parking.

Emergency Phone Numbers – 911 or Jefferson County Sheriff / (850) 997-2523
Madison County Sheriff / (850) 973-4151
Taylor County Sheriff / (850) 584-4225

Florida Greenways and Trails System

TRAILS – whether for paddling, bicycling, biking, horseback riding, or jogging – are a great way to discover and explore Florida’s unique and beautiful environment. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Greenways and Trails, administers the Florida Greenways and Trails System to encourage outdoor recreation in Florida, especially on trails. The 38 canoe trails are part of this statewide system and were designated so people could learn more about some of the rivers and creeks that provide enjoyable paddling.

A canoe trail is a publicly owned stream. When flowing through private property, the banks are privately owned and are not open to public use. A state canoe trail is used not only for canoeing/kayaking; these public waters are open to many kinds of users, including motorboats. Courtesy and common sense are important for a safe and enjoyable trip.

PADDLING TIPS

SAFETY EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST:

- ✓ Flotation gear. (Florida law requires a Coast Guard approved, readily accessible and wearable personal flotation device (PFD) for each occupant. PFD’s must be worn by all occupants under age 6.)
- ✓ Extra paddle.
- ✓ First Aid kit. Add insect repellent and sunscreen.
- ✓ Bow and stern lines. (About 15’ long is best)
- ✓ Flashlight and extra batteries.

PLAY IT SAFE:

- Secure your car and take keys with you.
- Paddle in a group or with a buddy.
- Watch for motorboats. Stay to the right and turn the bow into the wake.
- Let someone know your plans – where you are going and when you plan to be back.
- Place food and gear in water-tight containers and tie them securely to your boat.
- Carry drinking water.
- Allow a minimum of 2 miles per hour paddling time under normal conditions.
- Know about river conditions – if water is flooded, normal, or low.

RESPECT PROPERTY!

- Don’t litter or pollute the water with trash or other wastes. Please no glass.
- Be careful with campfires. Use cookstoves whenever possible.
- Access to private land should be by invitation **only**.

Office of Greenways & Trails
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