



Dam to the Bay Trip on the Ochlockonee River

March 11-17, 2017



Start: Ed & Bernice's Fish Camp just south of the Lake Talquin Dam, east of Hosford

End: Bald Point State Park on the Gulf of Mexico

Total Distance: 76 miles

Registration Deadline: February 25, 2017

Full Trip Fees: Includes camping, meals, and shuttle.

- \$600/adults
- \$575/seniors (65+) and college students
- \$550/youth 8-17
- free/children under 8

Paddle Florida Lite (4 or fewer days): \$110/day (includes meals, but not shuttle)

Official Outfitters: [The Wilderness Way](#)

Shuttle Details: Paddlers can choose a pre- or post-trip shuttle for themselves and their boats. Those choosing a pre-trip shuttle will need to report to Bald Point State Park near Alligator Point by 1PM on March 11. After having their boats loaded onto one of our trailers, they will be shuttled to Ed & Bernice's Fish Camp to check in for the trip. Paddlers may also choose to leave their vehicles at Ed & Bernice's Fish Camp and be shuttled back to it at the trip's conclusion.

Trip Itinerary:

Detailed [river maps](#) are available through Florida's Office of Greenways & Trails.

DAY	Lunch Stop	Lunch GPS	Lunch Miles	Camp Site	Campsite GPS	Daily Miles
1	N/A	N/A	N/A	Ed & Bernice's Fish Camp	30.3852, -84.6530	0
2	Packed lunch to be taken in boats	N/A	N/A	Huey P. Arnold County Park	30.2566, -84.7266	15
3	Packed lunch to be taken in boats	N/A	N/A	Whitehead Lake Landing	30.1652, -84.6747	16
4	Revel Landing	30.1288, -84.6713	6.5	Mack Landing	30.0946, -84.6461	11
5	Log Cabin Campsite	30.0330, -84.5955	9.5	Womack Creek Rec Area	30.0023, -84.5402	15
6	N/A	N/A	N/A	Ochlockonee River State Park	30.0084, -84.4745	7
7	Hwy 98 Bridge Ramp	29.9612, -84.3850	9	Bald Point State Park	29.9476, -84.3417	12
Total Miles:						76

- **Day 1/Saturday, March 11: Ed & Bernice's Fish Camp**
Paddling Miles: 0



We'll be spending six days paddling the Panhandle's [Ochlockonee River](#), part of Florida's statewide trail system managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Greenways and Trails.

Our trip begins at Ed & Bernice's Fish Camp off Highway 20 east of Hosford, where we'll camp the first night. Paddlers will check in

between 1-5PM and set up tents prior to the kick-off dinner and orientation for the paddling adventure to come.

Throughout the week, dinner will be served at 6PM each night, followed by an evening program at 7PM. Nightly entertainment ranges from musicians to educational speakers who will provide insights regarding the flora, fauna, history, and ecology of the region we're paddling through. Be sure to bring a camera to capture and preserve some great moments.

- **Day 2/Sunday, March 12: Ed & Bernice's Fish Camp to Huey P. Arnold County Park**

Paddling Miles: 15

Click [here](#) for a map of Day 2's journey.

After a hearty breakfast, paddlers will set out for the county park, 15 miles downriver. After 6.5 miles we will have a lunch stop at Stoutamire Landing on the edge of the Apalachicola National Forest. Our day's destination is the Huey P. Arnold County Park, a Liberty County park, where we will have dinner, an evening program, and camp.



- **Day 3/Monday, March 13: Huey P. Arnold County Park to Whitehead Lake Landing**

Paddling Miles: 16

Click [here](#) for a map of Day 3's journey.



We awake for breakfast and in anticipation of a 16-mile day with a rest stop at Jack Langston Fish Camp at 7.5 miles, before arriving at Whitehead Lake Landing, another facility in the Apalachicola Forest.

Remember the 1997 film *Ulee's Gold*, starring Peter Fonda? The back drop was a beekeeping family in the Apalachicola National Forest and the "gold" was Tupelo honey. You'll be paddling by these Tupelo trees and camping in the heart of bee farms and honey manufacturing on this stretch of the river trail. We might even get to sample some!

- **Day 4/Tuesday, March 14: Whitehead Lake Landing to Mack Landing**

Paddling Miles: 11

Click [here](#) for a map of Day 4's journey.

Another day and night in the Apalachicola National Forest, as we paddle 11 miles to Mack Landing. Along the way, we will have lunch at Revel Landing after paddling 6.5 miles. By now paddlers will have experienced the twisting turns and "ox bows" common to the Ochlocknee River. Today's stretch can be particularly winding and somewhat confusing in places if water levels are high. Several dead-end sloughs come off the main channel. Keep your river maps handy, as well as your GPS if you have one, and paddle in groups. Have your camera handy too, and you'll be paddling through quite a beautiful and remote Florida wilderness!



- **Day 5/Wednesday, March 15: Mack Landing to Womack Creek Recreation Area**

Paddling Miles: 15

Click [here](#) for a map of Day 5's journey.

Today's paddle is 15 miles, with a lunch stop at the Log Cabin Campsite in Tate's Hell State Forest after 9.5 miles. Once again, there are sloughs and tributaries coming into the main channel, so watch your maps and paddle near others. There is an opportunity to take a very pretty shortcut towards the end, which shaves off a couple miles of the day's full journey.



In the afternoon, we will arrive at Womack Creek Recreation Area in Tate's Hell State Forest, where there is an outstanding facility...with hot showers! Until we arrive at Womack Creek, this trip is the most primitive of all our Paddle Florida events.

Tate's Hell State Forest is one continuous tract of land comprising over 202,000 acres. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are several tales as to how the forest got its name: *Local legend has it that a farmer by the name of Cebe Tate, armed with only a shotgun and accompanied by his hunting dogs, journeyed into the swamp in*

search of a panther that was killing his livestock. Although there are several versions of this story, the most common describes Tate as being lost in the swamp for seven days and nights, bitten by a snake, and drinking from the murky waters to curb his thirst. Finally he came to a clearing near Carrabelle, living only long enough to murmur the words, "My name is Cebe Tate, and I just came from Hell!" Cebe Tate's adventure took place in 1875 and ever since, the area has been known as Tate's Hell, the legendary and forbidden swamp.



- **Day 6/Thursday, March 16: Womack Creek Recreation Area to Ochlockonee River State Park**

Paddling Miles: 7

Click [here](#) for a map of Day 6's journey.



After breakfast we will paddle the shortest leg of the trip to Ochlockonee River State Park, just seven miles. Since the day's mileage is so short, some paddlers on previous trips have opted to wander upstream and explore the Crooked River, which comes into the Ochlockonee on the west (right) side a couple miles before the state park. We'll forego a separate river stop for lunch today and instead set up snacks at the park.

This jewel of a state park features scenic riverside campsites below Spanish moss laden scrub oaks, outstanding picnic facilities, and a swimming area are located near the scenic point where the Ochlockonee and Dead rivers intersect. Ochlockonee, which means "yellow waters," is a mix of brackish, tidal surge, and fresh water. Hiking trails allow visitors to explore the park and see natural communities of pine flatwoods and oak thickets and diverse wildlife, including red-cockaded woodpeckers and white squirrels. These squirrels are not albinos, but instead are a genetic mutation of the gray squirrel, and

their coats are snow white. Another squirrel that you can see in the park is the Sherman's Fox Squirrel. Fox squirrels are rare and depend upon the open flatwoods ecosystem to survive.



- **Day 7/Friday, March 17: Ochlockonee River State Park to Bald Point State Park**

Paddling Miles: 12

Click [here](#) for a map of Day 7's journey.



Today's paddle will expose paddlers to their first open water of the trip. In previous years, Ochlockonee Bay has ranged from smooth as glass to choppy. While conditions may be calm as we depart the protected Ochlockonee River State Park, it's a good idea to put on your spray skirt as the wind will usually pick up a few miles downriver as you near the bay.

Our journey to Bald Point State Park on the Gulf of Mexico will cover 12 miles. We'll set up a rest stop after 9 miles at the public boat ramp on the northwest side of the Highway 98 bridge. Don't snack too much though as we'll have a barbeque lunch set up for paddlers at Bald Point State Park so that paddlers can re-fuel before embarking for home. Paddlers who chose the post-trip shuttle option will catch a ride back to Ed & Bernice's Fish camp to retrieve their vehicles.

