



# Lower Ochlockonee River Paddling Trail Guide



### The Waterway

Most of this scenic river winds through the rugged wilderness of the Apalachicola National Forest and other public conservation lands, past high pine bluffs and dense hardwoods. Near Ochlockonee River State Park, the end of the trail, the river widens and motorboats are more common as the river nears Ochlockonee Bay and eventually the Gulf of Mexico. Releases from the Jackson Bluff Dam vary water levels, and downed trees and log jams may be present during low water and after storm events. Campsites, campgrounds and fish camps are numerous.

### The Paddling Experience

This long paddling trail is not suitable for beginners due to areas of navigational difficulty. Low water may require portaging while high water can make conditions dangerous. The river above Hitchcock Lake is more unpredictable, with numerous twists and turns. The full trip from SR 20 to Ochlockonee River State Park is about 62 miles, but paddling to some campgrounds off the river will add distance. It is important to note that there is a 12-mile stretch between Bradwell and the Arnold Ramp with no access points, so plan accordingly. Recommended minimum flow level for the <a href="Smith Creek gauge">Smith Creek gauge</a> is 6.2 feet and 3.0 feet at the <a href="Bloxham gauge">Bloxham gauge</a>. Most of the access points are in very remote locations and leaving a vehicle overnight may be risky, consider contacting an outfitter for shuttling or arrange for safe parking.

### **Access Points**

#### #1, Start of the Trail, SR 20,

There are private fish camps on both sides of the river and Ed & Bernice's Fish Camp seafood restaurant and campground is just south of the bridge. These private launches require a small fee and offer a more secure parking situation than leaving a vehicle overnight at the bridge. Directions: Take SR 20 west out of Tallahassee to the Ochlockonee Bridge, access is a on the northwest side or better private options can be found at fish camps on south side of the bridge.

### #2, Mile 2.0-- Rock Bluff Scenic Area

The road to the area is unimproved and it is a steep drop to the river. *Directions: Take SR 20 west out of Tallahassee to CR 375. Take CR 375 south to FR 390 west to Rock Bluff Scenic Area.* 

### #3, Mile 3.0-- Bradwell Unit, Apalachicola National Forest -

Take SR 20 west out of Tallahassee across the Ochlockonee River to the entrance of the Apalachicola National Forest. The Bradwell Unit is on the south side of SR 20. Dirt road ends at access on the river.

### #4, Mile 15-- Huey P. Arnold Boat Ramp

Take SR 20 west out of Tallahassee across the Ochlockonee River to SR 65. Take SR 65 south to SR 67 east. Take SR 67 approximately 9.5 miles to Chason Cemetery Road (on the east side of SR 67) and follow the road to the river.



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# #5, Mile 18-- Pine Creek Landing



Primitive camping and boater access to the Ochlockonee River. Used as a hunt camp during general gun season. Take SR 20 to CR 375, turn south, go 10 miles to FR 335. Turn west on FR 335 for 1.5 miles to landing.

## #6, Mile 22-- Langston's Fish Camp (private)

Step back in time at this colorful private fish camp with simple rental cabins and a small fee for launching. This should not be confused with the historic Langston Ferry Crossing site, which is above Pine Creek Landing and is marked by a sign on the west side of the river. Take SR 20 west out of Tallahassee to CR 375. Take CR 375 south to Jack Langston Road west to the fish camp.

#7, Mile 30 - entrance of channel to Whitehead Landing/Porter Lake Campgrounds N: 30.1577 W: -84.6717

# #8, 0.5 miles side trip -- Whitehead Landing Campground



Whitehead Landing is a small campground and day use area on a tributary to the Ochlockonee River. The river may be accessed by boat from the concrete boat ramp. Campers can select campsites under the trees. From SR 20, take CR 375 south 17 miles to FH 13/CR 368. Turn west, cross Ochlockonee bridge, then go 2.5 miles to FR 186, turn east on FR 186 to Whitehead Landing Campground.

# #9, 1.5 mile side trip -- Porter Lake Campground

Primitive camping and fishing on Porter Lake and access for paddlers into winding channels through the floodplain forest of the Ochlockonee River basin. Trailhead along the Florida National Scenic Trail. Used as a hunt camp during general gun season. Directions: Take SR 20 west out of Tallahassee to CR 375. Take CR 375 south to CR 368/FH 13 west. Porter Lake is on the south side of the road just past the bridge.

**#10, Mile 35-- Entrance of channel to Revell Landing** N: 30.1281 W: -84.6705

# #11, 0.8 mile side trip - Revell Landing Campsite



Primitive camping and boater access to the Ochlockonee River. Used as a hunt camp during general gun season. From SR 20 take CR 375 south 17 miles to FH 13/CR 368. Turn west, cross Ochlockonee bridge, go 4 miles to CR 67. Turn south for 3.5 miles to FR 152, go east 1 mile to landing

#12, Mile 39.5, Entrance of channel to Mack Landing (N: 30.0918 W: -84.6450)

# #13, 0.2 mile side trip – Mack Landing Campground



Directions: From Tallahassee, take SR20 west. Turn left on to CR 375. Turn right at the sign for Mack Landing. Drive approximately 1.5 miles to the end of the entrance road. The primitive campground is on the left. The boat ramp is straight ahead.

#14, Mile 41.5, Entrance of channel to Hitchcock Lake (N: 30.0726 W: -84.6353)

# #15, 1.5 mile side trip to Hitchcock Lake Campground



Primitive camping and boater access to the Ochlockonee River. Used as a hunt camp during general gun season. Directions: Take SR 20 west out of Tallahassee to CR 375. Take CR 375 south to CR 368/FH 13 west, Take CR 368/FH 13 to CR 67 south. Continue on CR 67 to FR 184 east and follow the road to the river.







# #16, Mile 48.5, Tate's Hell State Forest Log Cabin Campground,

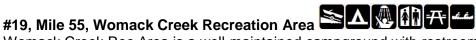
Take SR 20 west out of Tallahassee to CR 375. Take CR 375 south to CR 368/FH13 west. Take CR 368/FH 13 to CR 67 south. Continue on CR 67 to Short Road, turn left and follow to campsites about 1.7 miles. From Carrabelle, head north on CR 67 about 14 miles and turn right onto Short Road and follow to campsites about 1.7 miles

#17, Mile 51.5, Entrance of channel to Wood Lake Recreation Area N: 30.0231 W: -84.5633

# #18, 0.3 mile side trip to Wood Lake Campground,



Primitive camping and day use, with picnic tables and access for boaters to the Ochlockonee River. Used as a hunt camp during general gun season. Directions: Follow U.S. 319 south to downtown Sopchoppy and head west on CR 22 for almost 4.5 miles. Turn south on FR 340 and travel 0.8 miles. Follow road to FR 338 south for 2 miles to campground sign.



Womack Creek Rec Area is a well-maintained campground with restrooms, hot showers, and picnic pavilions. Take SR 20 west out of Tallahassee to CR 375. Take CR 375 south to CR 368/FH 13 west. Take CR 368/FH 13 to CR 67 south. Continue on CR 67 to Rock Landing Road east. Continue on Rock Landing Road and turn left onto Jeff Sanders Road and continue to river. From Carrabelle, it is about 10.5 miles on CR 67 north to Rock Landing Road

#20, Mile 62, End of the Trail, Ochlockonee River State Park



From Tallahassee take U.S. 319 south through Sopchoppy and continue south 4.5 miles to park entrance.

#### **Outfitters and Shuttle Service**

Wilderness Way 850-877-7720

## **Base Camp**

Keep an eye out for the Ochlockonee River State Park's famous white squirrels and enjoy star gazing in dark night skies. This jewel of a park is a great place to get away for a weekend or a week-long vacation. 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. Pristine and deep, the river empties into the Gulf of Mexico. Trails allow visitors to explore the park and see the diverse wildlife, including the red-cockaded woodpecker, and natural communities such as pine flatwoods and oak thickets. A universally accessible boat ramp provides easy access to the river. Both freshwater and saltwater fish inhabit the waters around the park, including largemouth bass, bream, catfish and speckled perch. For overnight visitors, there are full-facility campsites with access to restrooms and showers. Youth group camping is also available.