

Kayak & Canoe CAMPING Okefenokee

National Wildlife Refuge

by Scott Lynch



Above: Always a favorite spot to snap a pic! Entrance to the ***National Wilderness Area*** on the Orange Trail, 1.5 miles west of the Suwannee Canal Recreation Area.

Front cover (on website): Bluff Lake camp in late Fall.

(Note: Drones are NOT permitted in the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. The author obtained permission from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to publish low aerial images for the purpose of this publication.)

Kayak & Canoe CAMPING Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge

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Group of kayakers on a multi-day Okefenokee camping adventure! Pink Trail.

This book is distributed with the understanding that the author assumes no legal responsibility for the completeness or accuracy of this information, nor for any injuries or damages incurred while attempting any of the activities or visiting any of the destinations described within it. The text is based on information available at the time of publication. Always paddle, camp and adventure at your own risk!

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paddling Trails

(in alphabetical order)

Paddled

Blue Trail	22	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brown Trail	24	<input type="checkbox"/>
Green Trail	26	<input type="checkbox"/>
Orange Trail	28	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pink Trail	32	<input type="checkbox"/>
Purple Trail	34	<input type="checkbox"/>
Red Trail	36	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yellow Trail	40	<input type="checkbox"/>

Paddle Camping Sites

(in alphabetical order)

Camped

Big Water	44	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bluff Lake	46	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buzzards Roost	48	<input type="checkbox"/>
Canal Run	50	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cedar Hammock	52	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coffee Bay	54	<input type="checkbox"/>
Floyds Island	56	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maul Hammock	58	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mixons Hammock	60	<input type="checkbox"/>
Round Top	62	<input type="checkbox"/>
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INTRODUCTION

ABOUT this GUIDEBOOK & Your Trip

If you're looking for information on the history of the Okefenokee, or a deep dive into the regional flora and fauna, look elsewhere. Let's face it, while that type of information has its place, when you're on the water in a strange, far-from-home wilderness, you want to know where to paddle, how long it should take, what to expect along the way, and where to pitch your tent or hammock for the night. This is what you'll get with this book. What follows is intentionally concise, written by an experienced paddle-camper for other paddle-campers.

Although you don't have to be an expert, tenured paddle-camper to venture into the Okefenokee, it should not be your first trip of this type, and you must do your homework. A backcountry wilderness trip requires study and preparation, reading guidebooks, pouring over maps, talking to Refuge staff, watching videos and checking weather reports. **Bottom line - be prepared. Be overprepared.** You should always assume you're not going to have cell phone service, and no one is coming to save you - at least not right away!

SAFETY CONCERNS in the Okefenokee

Primary safety concerns are the same as any other type of outdoor activity:

- Bring more drinking and cooking water than you think you'll need. Due to heavy sediments and high tannic acid, filtering/purifying Okefenokee swamp water is not recommended.
- Have ample protection from sun exposure - sunblock, long sleeve shirt, long pants and wide brim hat.
- Biting insects can be formidable, even in cooler months.
- Share your put-in/take-out location, paddling route, launch and return times with family and friends.
- It's always a good idea to bring a buddy along with you. Share your awesome Okefenokee experience with someone else.
- Do your homework on the route, conditions and where you're camping. Know how to use and practice with your gear.
- Be prepared for long, arduous days of paddling and sitting in your kayak/canoe. Once you get on the water, there are not many places to get out, stretch your legs or use the bathroom.

Alligators

Without fail, alligators are the number one concern asked about when discussing Okefenokee with newcomers. Let's get one thing out of the way: you will see alligators. There are lots of them. However, after thousands of miles paddled in the deep Southeast and the Okefenokee, I can assure you that alligators are not a concern.

Here's the best advice I can give you: just don't make a big deal about alligators. They don't want anything to do with you. Use common sense. Treat alligators with the upmost respect. Never feed an alligator, or any wildlife! Never approach them on purpose, and just paddle on by, giving them the widest berth possible. You will be fine.

PFD's or "Life Jackets," and Whistles

Georgia law states each person must have a Personal Flotation Device (PFD or "life jacket") in the kayak or canoe. Children under 13 are required to wear their PFD when in a kayak or canoe. It's recommended that everyone always wears a PFD when paddling. In addition, it's recommended that each person have an emergency whistle attached to their PFD.

Water Levels & Currents

Rising water levels and extreme low waters can be a concern for some Okefenokee trails; low waters - especially on the east/northeast side of the Refuge in colder months. The Refuge authorities will close waterways at times and/or advise about water level concerns. Be sure to ask about this when making camping reservations and call a few days before your trip to check water levels.

The water is moving and there are slight currents in the Okefenokee. Although it is not usually too much of an issue, depending on water levels and recent storms, currents can be challenging on some narrow trails. Know your paddling limits and study the trail descriptions on pages 21 - 41.

CAMPING PERMITS

There are ten backcountry, waterway-camping locations in the Okefenokee. Seven of these are on platforms built over the water and two are on islands / land. Camping permits can be made for anywhere from one to four nights. One- and two-night permits are only available during peak season, which is March 1 - April 30.

To Make a RESERVATION: Call **912-496-3331** between 7 a.m. and 10 a.m., Tuesday through Thursday EST, excluding federal holidays. Reservations can be made 2 months in advance and can only be made by phone. Fees are charged for camping.

Before calling for a camping permit, you must set up a profile in **Recreation.gov**. Only one party is allowed to camp at a site for a night, and permits are limited to 20 people. Only canoes and/or kayaks are authorized on overnight wilderness camping trips; no motors of any type are allowed. Pets and swimming are prohibited. Leave no trace; pack it in, pack it out.

Open fires are permitted only at Canal Run, Mixons Hammock and Floyds Island. Fire rings are provided at these sites.

Camping rules and permit fees are subject to change. Review camping information on this webpage before you call the Refuge:

fws.gov/refuge/okefenokee/visit-us/activities/camping



Kayak camping at the Floyds Island cabin.

DISTANCES

Distances Between Campsites, Boat Ramps

Keeping consistent with the Okefenokee NWR, paddling distances are accurate within +/- 0.75 mile. See color Refuge map on pages 12 - 13.

Suwannee Canal Recreation Area (p. 16) boat ramp to:

Cedar Hammock (p. 52)	3 miles
Coffee Bay (p. 54)	6
Buzzards Roost (p. 48)	8
Canal Run (p. 50)	10
Floyds Island (p. 56)	13*
Round Top (p. 62)	12*

Stephen C. Foster State Park (p. 17) boat ramp to:

Mixons Hammock (p. 60)	2
Big Water (p. 44)	11*
Canal Run (p. 50)	7* (strong currents this direction)
Floyds Island (p. 56)	9
Billys Island (p. 68 for hiking, picnic)	2
Minnies Lake (p. 66, day-use only)	4
Round Top (p. 62)	11

Kingfisher Landing (p. 18) boat ramp to:

Bluff Lake (p. 46)	8
Maul Hammock (p. 58)	12*

Big Water (p. 44) CAMPING to:

Stephen C. Foster S.P. (p. 17)	11
Maul Hammock (p. 58)	9
Floyds Island (p. 56)	8
Mixons Hammock (p. 60)	13*

Bluff Lake (p. 46) CAMPING to:

Kingfisher Landing (p. 18)	8
Floyds Island (p. 56)	9
Round Top (p. 62)	12*
Canal Run (p. 50)	11

Canal Run (p. 50) CAMPING to:

Stephen C. Foster S.P. (p. 17)	7
Suwannee Canal R.A. (p. 16)	10
Coffee Bay (p. 54)	4

DISTANCES

Round Top (p. 62)	3 or 6 miles
Floyds Island (p. 56)	5
Cedar Hammock (p. 52)	9
Buzzards Roost (p. 48)	14*
Bluff Lake (p. 46)	11
Mixons Hammock (p. 60)	9

Cedar Hammock (p. 52) CAMPING to:

Suwannee Canal R.A. (p. 16)	3
Coffee Bay (p. 54)	5
Buzzards Roost (p. 48)	8
Canal Run (p. 50)	9
Round Top (p. 62)	11
Floyds Island (p. 56)	13*

Coffee Bay (p. 54) CAMPING to:

Suwannee Canal R.A. (p. 16)	6
Cedar Hammock (p. 52)	5
Buzzards Roost (p. 48)	9
Canal Run (p. 50)	4
Round Top (p. 62)	6
Floyds Island (p. 56)	8

Floyds Island (p. 56) CAMPING to:

Suwannee Canal R.A. (p. 16)	13*
Stephen C. Foster S.P. (p. 17)	9
Canal Run (p. 50)	5
Round Top (p. 62)	6
Coffee Bay (p. 54)	8
Big Water (p. 44)	8
Bluff Lake (p. 46)	9
Cedar Hammock (p. 52)	13*
Mixons Hammock (p. 60)	11

Maul Hammock (p. 58) CAMPING to:

Kingfisher Landing (p. 18)	12*
Big Water (p. 44)	9

Mixons Hammock (p. 60) CAMPING to:

Stephen C. Foster S.P. (p. 17)	2
Big Water (p. 44)	13*

DISTANCES

Canal Run (p. 50)	9
Floyds Island (p. 56)	11

Buzzards Roost (p. 48) CAMPING to:

	miles
Suwannee Canal R.A. (p. 16)	8
Cedar Hammock (p. 52)	8
Coffee Bay (p. 54)	9
Canal Run (p. 50)	14*
Round Top (p. 62)	15*

Round Top (p. 62) CAMPING to:

	miles
Suwannee Canal R.A. (p. 16)	12*
Cedar Hammock (p. 52)	11
Floyds Island (p. 56)	6
Coffee Bay (p. 54)	6
Canal Run (p. 50)	3 or 6
Bluff Lake (p. 46)	12*
Stephen C. Foster S.P. (p. 17)	11
Buzzards Roost (p. 48)	15*

***Only recommended for strong paddlers due to long distance and/or water currents. Always start your paddling day early!**

Driving Distances Between Boat Ramps

See Refuge map on pages 12 - 13.

SCRA: Suwannee Canal Recreation Area
SFSP: Stephen C. Foster State Park
KF: Kingfisher Landing

SCRA ↔ SFSP: 73 miles; 1 hr., 15 minutes

SCRA ↔ KF: 25 miles; 30 minutes

SFSP ↔ KF: 90 miles; 1 hr., 30 minutes

Overnight Camping Itineraries

The routes below are the most popular and do not represent a comprehensive list of the camping options available. Many trips can be done in reverse or exiting from a different part of the Refuge. Use these itineraries as a starting point, study the color map on pages 12-13, and be aware of your group's limitations. Trips longer than two nights are not available during the peak season of March 1 - April 30. Paddling distances are accurate within +/- 0.75 mile.

SCRA: Suwannee Canal Recreation Area

SFSP: Stephen C. Foster State Park

KF: Kingfisher Landing

ONE NIGHT TRIPS

<u>Enter</u>	<u>Miles</u>	<u>Camp</u>	<u>Miles</u>	<u>Exit</u>
SCRA	10	Canal Run	10	SCRA
SCRA	6	Coffee Bay	6	SCRA
SCRA	12	Round Top	12	SCRA
SCRA	8	Buzzards Roost	8	SCRA
SCRA	13	Floyds Island	13	SCRA
SFSP	9	Floyds Island	9	SFSP
SCRA	3	Cedar Hammock	3	SCRA
SFSP	11	Big Water	11	SFSP
SFSP	2	Mixons Hammock	2	SFSP
KF	8	Bluff Lake	8	KF
KF	12	Maul Hammock	12	KF

TWO NIGHT TRIPS

<u>Enter</u>	<u>Miles</u>	<u>Camp 1</u>	<u>Miles</u>	<u>Camp 2</u>	<u>Miles</u>	<u>Exit</u>
SCRA	12	Round Top	6 or 3	Canal Run	10	SCRA
SCRA	6	Coffee Bay	5	Cedar Hmck	3	SCRA
SCRA	12	Round Top	11	Cedar Hmck	3	SCRA
SFSP	9	Floyds Island	5	Canal Run	10	SCRA
SCRA	13	Floyds Island	5	Canal Run	7	SFSP
SCRA	8	Buzzards Rst	8	Cedar Hmck	3	SCRA
SFSP	2	Mixons Hmck	9	Canal Run	10	SCRA
SFSP	2	Mixons Hmck	9	Canal Run	7	SFSP
SFSP	9	Floyds Island	6	Round Top	12	SCRA
SCRA	13	Floyds Island	6	Round Top	12	SCRA
SFSP	2	Mixons Hmck	11	Floyds Island	9	SFSP
SFSP	2	Mixons Hmck	11	Floyds Island	13	SCRA
KF	12	Maul Hmck	9	Big Water	11	SFSP
KF	8	Bluff Lake	12	Round Top	12	SCRA

CAMPING PERMITS

call 912-496-3331

Tues.-Thurs., 7 a.m.-10 a.m. EST

Overnight Camping Itineraries

SCRA: Suwannee Canal Recreation Area

SFSP: Stephen C. Foster State Park

KF: Kingfisher Landing

THREE NIGHT TRIPS**

<u>Enter</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Camp 1</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Camp 2</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Camp 3</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Exit</u>
SCRA	3	Cdr Hmck	11	Round Top	6 or 3	Canal Run	10	SCRA
SCRA	3	Crdr Hmck	5	Coffee Bay	4	Canal Run	10	SCRA
SCRA	8	Buzz Rst	14	Canal Run	6 or 3	Round Top	12	SCRA
SCRA	12	Round Top	11	Cdr Hmck	8	Buzz Rst	8	SCRA
SCRA	12	Round Top	6 or 3	Canal Run	9	Cdr Hmck	3	SCRA
SCRA	10	Canal Run	6 or 3	Round Top	6	Floyds Islnd	13	SCRA
SFSP	7	Canal Run	6 or 3	Round Top	6	Floyds Islnd	9	SFSP
SFSP	9	Floyds Islnd	8	Big Water	13	Mix Hmck	2	SFSP
KF	12	Maul Hmck	9	Big Water	8	Floyds Islnd	13	SCRA
KF	8	Bluff Lake	12	Round Top	11	Cdr Hmck	3	SCRA

****3- and 4-night trips not available during peak season of March 1 - April 30.**

Four-night trips can be expedition level, require a lot of planning, and should only be attempted by the most tenured paddle-campers. Contact the Refuge and/or its website for more information on these longer itineraries:

fws.gov/refuge/okefenokee/visit-us/activities/camping

Day Paddling Itineraries

SCRA: Suwannee Canal Recreation Area

SFSP: Stephen C. Foster State Park

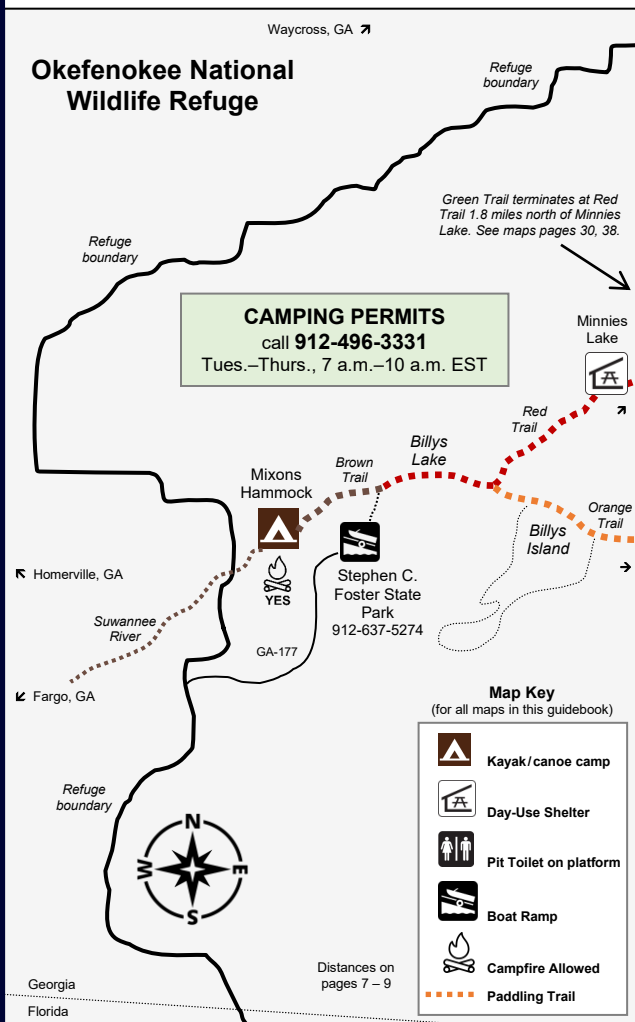
KF: Kingfisher Landing

The Refuge is best visited on overnight paddle camping trips, however, you can day paddle 2 - 10 miles from the boat ramps to experience a variety of the swamp. The distances below are round trip.

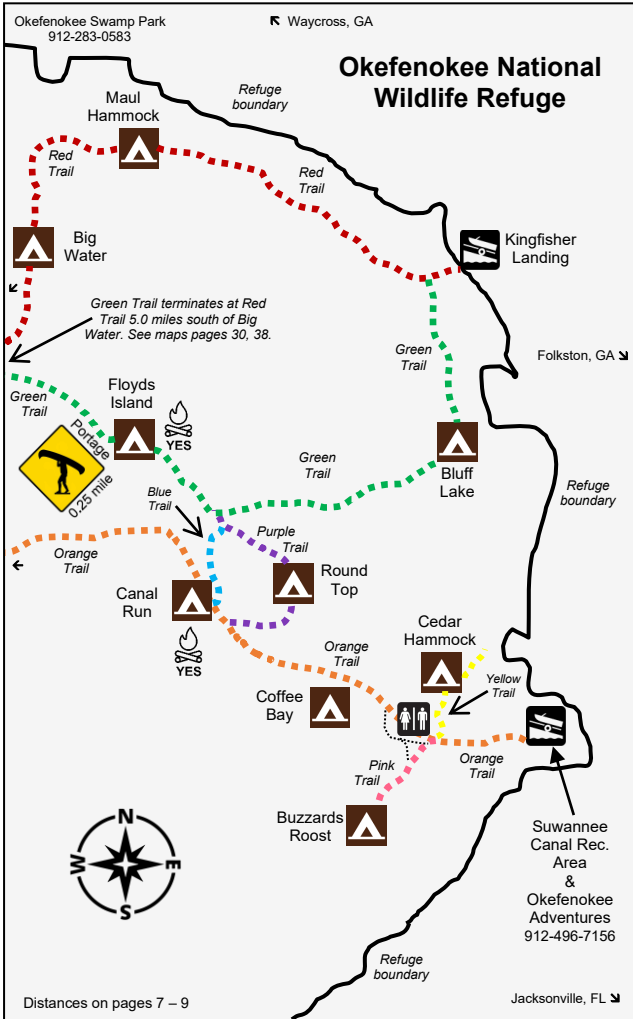
<u>Enter</u>	<u>Miles</u>	<u>Destination</u>
SCRA	2 - 8	Paddle the beautiful Suwannee Canal (pgs. 16, 28).
SCRA	4 - 8	Paddle to the Yellow or Pink trail, turn on either trail to experience a water prairie/grassland (pgs. 32, 40).
SFSP	4	Billys Island for hiking or a picnic (p. 68).
SFSP	8	Have lunch at Minnies Lake day-use shelter (p. 66).
SFSP	2 - 6	Enjoy open water and photography on Billys Lake (p. 12).
KF	1 - 5	Launch from Kingfisher and o some remote fishing where you're not likely to see anyone else (p. 18).

WEST Side

Okfenokee Paddle Trail & Camp Map



Map above is not to scale and is for illustrative purposes only. Individual trail maps and descriptions are on pages 21 - 41. Additional camping information can be found at: fws.gov/refuge/okefenokee/visit-us/activities/camping.



Map above is not to scale and is for illustrative purposes only. Individual trail maps and descriptions are on pages 21 - 41. For more information on the Floyds Island portage, see pages 26 - 27 and 56 - 57.

Like this book? See it in full color.
There's a companion website!

www.PaddleOkefenokee.com



Top and middle left: kayaking Pink Trail. Top right: Round Top camping. Bottom: kayaking the Orange Trail/Suwannee Canal.

Okefenokee NWR



www.PaddleOkefenokee.com

Rental canoes at the Suwannee Canal Recreation Area.



Suwannee Canal Recreation Area

SCRA



A fun place to snap a pic! Beginning of the Suwannee Canal at the SCRA.

General Location	East side of the Refuge. See map on page 13.
Address	4159 Suwannee Canal Road, Folkston, GA 31537.
GPS Coordinates for Boat Ramp	30°44'17.5"N, 82°08'27.9"W or 30.738197, -82.141092
Close-by Towns with Services	Folkston, GA - 10 miles; 15 minutes Waycross, GA - 45 miles; 50 minutes Kingsland, GA - 30 miles; 40 minutes Jacksonville, FL - 50 miles; 1 hour
Notes	Abbreviated "SCRA." The popular Okefenokee Adventures is located here. They provide tours and canoe rentals. There's a gift shop, supplies, small restaurant and restrooms. For paddle-camping, you must sign in/out at Okefenokee Adventures inside the guest reception area.

Okefenokee Adventures 912-496-7156.



Launching from Stephen C. Foster State Park.

General Location	West side of the Refuge. See map on page 12.
Address	17515 GA-177, Fargo, GA 31631.
GPS Coordinates for Boat Ramp	30°49'36.2"N, 82°21'41.6"W or 30.826731, -82.361551
Close-by Towns with Services	Homerville, GA - 45 miles; 50 minutes Waycross, GA - 72 miles; 1 hour, 15 minutes Jacksonville, FL - 90 miles; 1 hour, 30 minutes Fargo, GA - 19 miles; 25 minutes.
Notes	Abbreviated "SFSP." Paddling access to the Refuge at the end of Stephen C. Foster State Park's road. It has a gift shop, limited supplies, canoe rentals and restrooms. Campground and cottage rentals. You must sign in/out at the boat ramp. Stephen C. Foster State Park 912-637-5274.



Kingfisher Landing

KF



Great signage at the entrance to Kingfisher Landing.

General Location	Northeast side of the Refuge. See map on page 13.
Address	at end of Kingfisher Landing Road, Folkston, GA 31537.
GPS Coordinates for Boat Ramp	30°57'17.2"N, 82°08'14.9"W or 30.954774, -82.137460
Close-by Towns with Services	Folkston, GA - 13 miles; 20 minutes Waycross, GA - 24 miles; 30 minutes Kingsland, GA - 32 miles; 40 minutes Jacksonville, FL - 55 miles; 1 hour, 10 minutes
Notes	Abbreviated "KF." No services or visitor center located here. There is a pit/vault toilet here. Provides access to Bluff Lake camping (8 mile paddle) and Maul Hammock camping (a long 12 mile paddle). You must sign in/out at the boat ramp. Okefenokee Swamp Park is 25 minutes away from here: 912-283-0583 .



Suwannee Canal Recreation Area (SCRA) to:

Cedar Hammock - route map p. 41, campsite information p. 52

1. From the boat ramp, paddle 1.9 miles west on the Orange Trail / Suwannee Canal.
2. Turn right on the Yellow Trail.¹
3. Paddle 0.9 mile further on the Yellow Trail and arrive at Cedar Hammock.¹⁴

Superscript Numbers at end of sentence: **GPS** info. on pp. 92 – 93

Coffee Bay - route map p. 30, campsite information p. 54

1. From the boat ramp, paddle 1.9 miles west on the Orange Trail / Suwannee Canal to signage / split in trail. Bear right.²
2. Paddle 3.8 miles further and arrive at Coffee Bay.⁵

Buzzards Roost - route map p. 33, campsite information p. 48

1. From the boat ramp, paddle 1.9 miles west on the Orange Trail / Suwannee Canal to signage / split in trail. Bear left.²
2. Continue another 1,000 ft. and turn left on Pink Trail.³
3. Paddle 5.6 miles further on the Pink Trail and arrive at Buzzards Roost.⁴

Round Top - route map p. 35, campsite information p. 62

1. From the boat ramp, paddle 1.9 miles west on the Orange Trail / Suwannee Canal to signage / split in trail. Bear right.²
2. Pass by Coffee Bay Day-Use in 3.8 miles further.⁵
3. Continue 3.3 miles. Turn right on the Purple Trail.⁷
4. Paddle 2.4 miles further and arrive at Round Top.⁸

Canal Run - route map p. 30, campsite information p. 50

3. From the boat ramp, paddle 1.9 miles west on the Orange Trail / Suwannee Canal to signage / split in trail. Bear right.²
4. Pass by Coffee Bay Day-Use in 3.8 miles further.⁵
5. Continue 4.2 miles further and arrive at Canal Run on the left.⁶

Floyds Island - route maps pp. 27, 30, campsite information p. 56

1. From the boat ramp, paddle 1.9 miles west on the Orange Trail / Suwannee Canal to signage / split in trail. Bear right.²
2. Pass by Coffee Bay Day-Use in 3.8 miles further.⁵
3. Continue 4.1 miles. Bear right on the Blue Trail.⁹
4. After 0.4 mile (2,000 ft.), bear right to continue the Blue Trail.¹⁰
5. Blue Trail intersects with Purple Trail in 1.4 miles. Continue straight.¹¹
6. Intersection with Green Trail is 0.8 mile further. Continue straight.¹²
7. In 1.0 mile further, arrive at Floyds Island EAST access.¹³

Stephen C. Foster State Park (SFSP) to:

Mixons Hammock - route map p. 25, campsite information p. 60

1. From the boat ramp, paddle north up the canal away from the park.
2. After 2,000 ft., at the end of the canal, turn left on Brown Trail.¹⁷
3. Paddle 1.5 miles on Brown Trail and arrive at Mixons Hammock on the right.¹⁸



Routes: Boat Ramps to Campsites

Stephen C. Foster State Park (SFSP) to:

Floyds Island - route map p. 30, campsite information p. 56

1. From the boat ramp, paddle north up the canal away from park.
2. After 2,000 ft., at the end of the canal, turn right.¹⁷
3. Paddle the wide, river-like waterway east for 1.1 miles.
4. Turn left on the Red Trail.²²
5. Pass by Minnies Lake Day-Use Shelter in 2.4 miles further.²¹
6. Continue another 1.8 miles. Turn right on the Green Trail.¹⁹
7. In 3.1 miles further, arrive at Floyds Island WEST access.²⁵

Big Water - route map p. 38, campsite information p. 44

1. From the boat ramp, paddle north up the canal away from park.
2. After 2,000 ft., at the end of the canal, turn right.¹⁷
3. Paddle the wide, river-like waterway east for 1.1 miles.
4. Turn left on the Red Trail.²²
5. Pass by Minnies Lake Day-Use Shelter in 2.4 miles further.²¹
6. Continue another 6.8 miles and arrive at Big Water.²⁰

Canal Run - route map p. 30, campsite information p. 50

1. From the boat ramp, paddle north up the canal away from park.
2. After 2,000 ft., at the end of the canal, turn right.¹⁷
3. Paddle the wide, river-like waterway east, passing by Billys Island in 1.75 miles.¹⁶
4. After passing Billys Island, the trail significantly narrows, with many tight twists and turns.
5. Paddle 5.3 miles further and arrive at Canal Run on the right.⁶

Kingfisher Landing (KF) to:

Bluff Lake - route map p. 27, campsite information p. 46

1. From the boat ramp, paddle southwest on the Red Trail nearly 1.0 mile to the intersection with Green Trail.²⁶
2. Turn left on the Green Trail and continue another 7 miles, arrive at Bluff Lake.¹⁵

Maul Hammock - route map p. 38, campsite information p. 58

1. From the boat ramp, paddle southwest on the Red Trail for nearly 1.0 mile to the intersection with Green Trail.²⁶
2. Continue straight, heading northwest on the Red Trail.
3. Paddle another 11 miles. When arrive at split/signage in trail, bear left (this trail split/signage is pictured on p. 59).
4. Paddle 120 ft. and arrive at lake with Maul Hammock camp.²⁴

Paddling Trails (alphabetical order)

Okefenokee NWR



www.PaddleOkefenokee.com

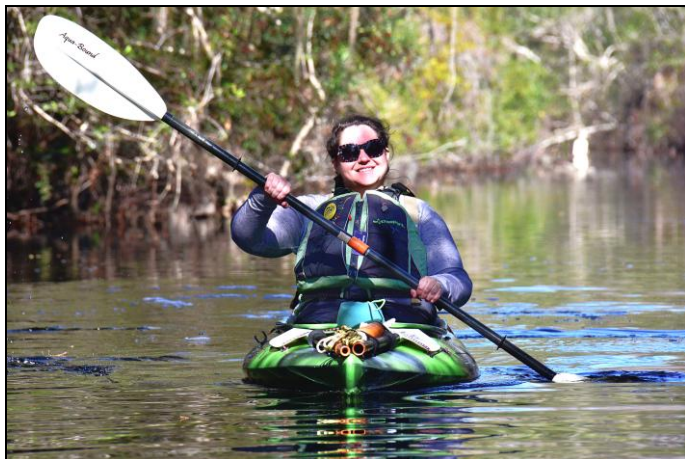
The eight wilderness paddling trails are color-coded. Numbered mile markers are on each trail and there are posts painted white on top to serve as trail markers. At trail intersections, there's good signage pointing to other trails, campsites and points of interest. In general, the paddling trails are easy to follow. GPS coordinates are provided for all trail intersections.

Pictured above: Green Trail, just a little east of Floyds Island. - 21 -



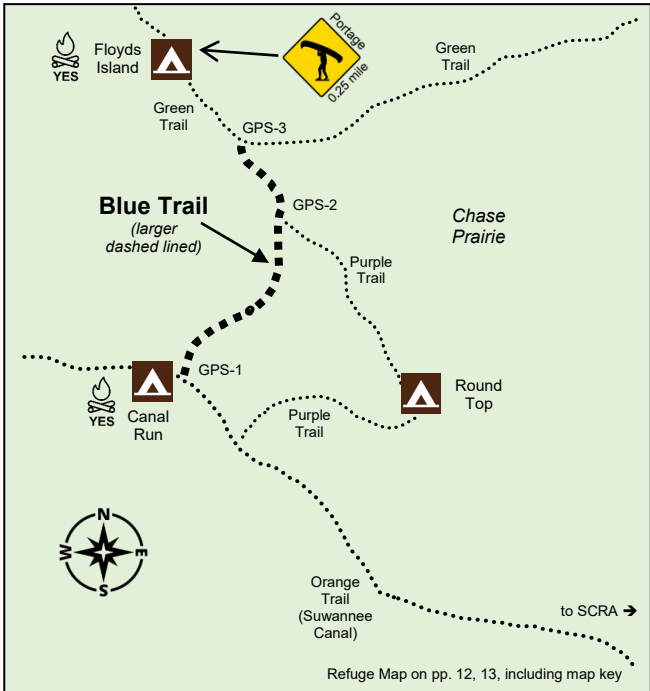
Blue Trail

Paddled this Trail Date: _____



On a shaded part of the Blue Trail, just north of the Suwannee Canal.

General Location	East-central part of Refuge, skirts the edges of the Chase Prairie. Runs south - north direction.
Connects	Orange Trail with Purple Trail and Green Trail.
Length	2.6 miles.
Difficulty	Easy.
Features	Prairies, grasslands, trees on west side, great place to see alligators and large wading birds.
Shelters	No shelters on the Blue Trail, however, nearby are Canal Run (p. 50), Round Top (p. 62) and Floyds Island (p. 56) campsites.
Current	Negligible. Closer to the Orange Trail, there can be a slight current south.
Precautions	You're exposed to the elements after approximately three-quarters of a mile north of the Suwannee Canal.



Map above is not to scale and is for illustrative purposes only.

- GPS-1: Orange Trail / Suwannee Canal intersection
30°48'51.0"N, 82°15'02.6"W or 30.814165, -82.250723
- GPS-2: Purple Trail intersection
30°50'07.4"N, 82°14'50.8"W or 30.835384, -82.247456
- GPS-3: Green Trail intersection
30°50'43.8"N, 82°15'11.5"W or 30.845498, -82.253180



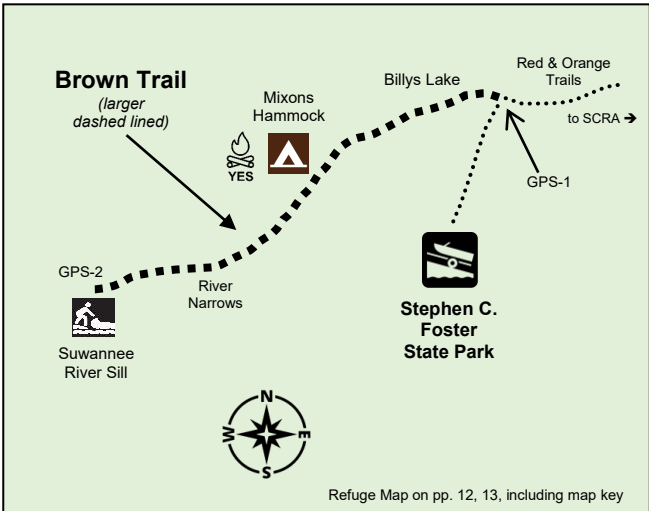
Brown Trail

Paddled this Trail Date: _____



Author on the Brown Trail, heading for a night at Mixons Hammock.

General Location	West side of Refuge near Stephen C. Foster State Park.
Connects	Billys Lake, SFSP, provides access to Mixons Hammock. You can also reach the Suwannee River Sill through the River Narrows.
Length	5 miles.
Difficulty	Easy to Mixons Hammock, moderate through the River Narrows.
Features	Wider lake/river type paddling, mixed cypress trees, bay and gum swamp.
Shelters	Mixons Hammock (p. 60) and easy access to Stephen C. Foster State Park (p. 17).
Current	Gently flows in southwest direction toward the Suwannee River.
Precautions	Potential for downed trees and other submerged obstacles in the River Narrows section.



Map above is not to scale and is for illustrative purposes only.

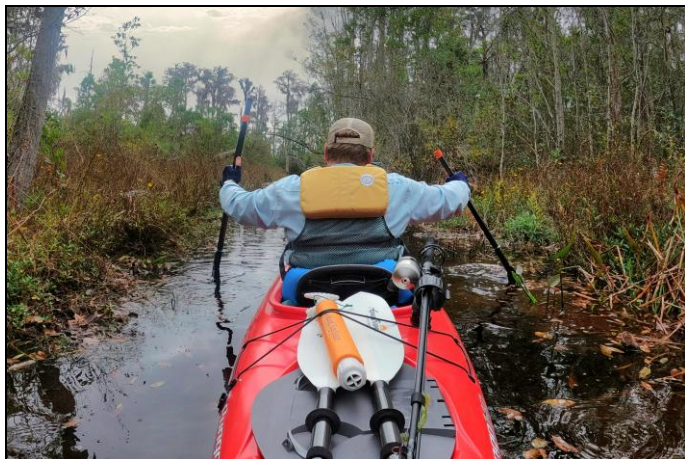
GPS-1: Intersection with canal heading to Stephen Foster State Park
30°49'54.3"N, 82°21'36.9"W or 30.831743, -82.360253

GPS-2: Suwannee River Sill
30°48'12.8"N, 82°25'03.6"W or 30.803546, -82.417669



Green Trail

Paddled this Trail Date: _____



Pushing through winter low water levels of the Green Trail, east of Floyds Island.

General Location	Northeast to the middle part of Refuge.
Connects	Red Trail EAST / Kingfisher Landing to Bluff Lake camping, to east of Floyds Island, then a 0.25 mile portage across Floyds Island, then west of Floyds Island to the Red Trail WEST.
Length	Nearly 20 miles.
Difficulty	Moderate to difficult, due to remoteness, length and often lower water levels in winter.
Features	Prairies, grasslands, few trees east of Floyds Island, dense tree/swamp-like cover west of Floyds Island.
Shelters	Bluff Lake (p. 46), Floyds Island (p. 56).
Current	Generally flows southwest.
Precautions	You're exposed to the elements for most of the paddle from Bluff Lake to Floyds Island.

Green Trail Map



Map above is not to scale and is for illustrative purposes only.
The Floyd's Island portage is not difficult. A portage cart is provided.

GPS-1: Red Trail intersection - EAST (near Kingfisher Landing)
30°57'16.1"N 82°09'06.6"W or 30.954472, -82.151833

GPS-2: Blue Trail intersection
30°50'43.8"N, 82°15'11.5"W or 30.845498, -82.253180

GPS-3: Red Trail intersection - WEST (not shown on map above)
30°52'31.8"N, 82°18'09.1"W or 30.875492, -82.302518



Orange Trail

Paddled this Trail Date: _____



Paddling the beautiful Orange Trail, a couple of miles beyond the SCRA.

General Location	It's the long trail that cuts across the Refuge in east ↔ west direction. Includes the Suwannee Canal.
Connects	Suwannee Canal Recreation Area to nearly Stephen C. Foster State Park. Connects to the Yellow, Pink, Blue, Purple, and Red trails.
Length	16 miles.
Difficulty	Moderate to Canal Run, due to distance. Moderate to difficult from Canal Run to Billys Lake, due to tight paddling and strong currents.
Features	11 miles of canal, then narrow twists/turns from Canal Run to Billys Island. Lots of tall, eerie, picturesque trees with Spanish moss.
Shelters	6 miles from Suwannee Canal Rec. Area is Coffee Bay (p. 54) camping platform. Canal Run (p. 50) camping platform is 10 miles from Suwannee Canal Recreation Area.



- Current** Gently flows west towards Stephen C. Foster State Park.
- Precautions** During times of low water levels, the narrow twists/turns between Canal Run and Billys Island can be difficult.

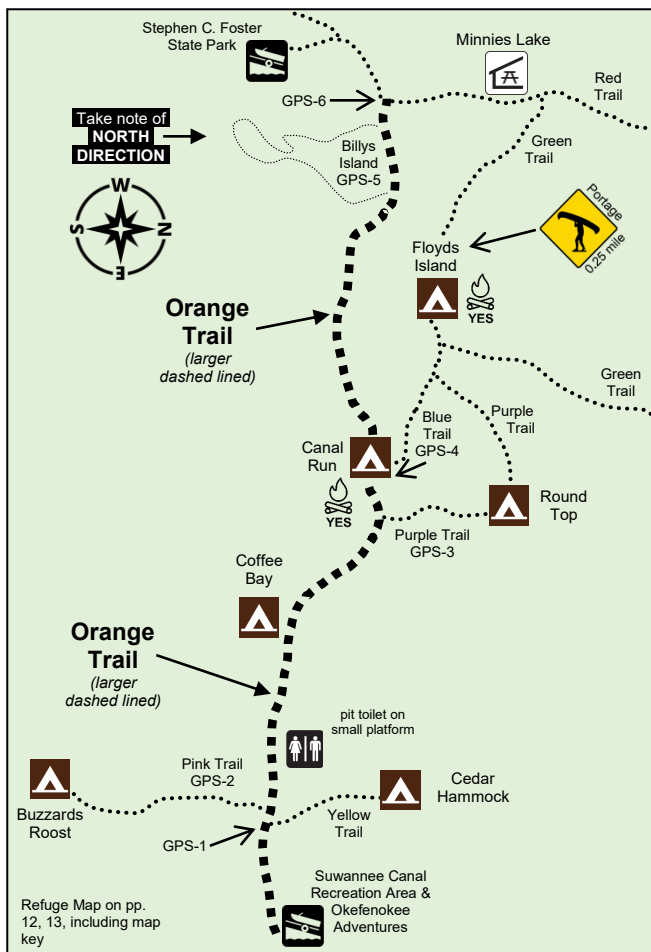


Good friends on the easy-going Orange Trail / Suwannee Canal.

- GPS-1: Yellow Trail intersection (turn for Cedar Hammock camp)
30°44'14.8"N, 82°10'14.7"W or 30.737442, -82.170742
- GPS-2: Beginning of Pink Trail (turn for Buzzards Roost camp)
30°44'14.0"N, 82°10'29.3"W or 30.737230, -82.174807
- GPS-3: Purple Trail intersection (turn for Round Top camp)
30°48'13.8"N, 82°14'50.2"W or 30.803833, -82.247278
- GPS-4: Blue Trail intersection (turn to head towards Floyds Island camp)
30°48'51.0"N, 82°15'02.6"W or 30.814165, -82.250723
- GPS-5: Billys Island access (on south side of Orange Trail)
30°49'53.3"N, 82°19'57.9"W or 30.831474, -82.332757
- GPS-6: Red Trail intersection
30°50'05.5"N, 82°20'35.4"W or 30.834862, -82.343155



Orange Trail Map



GPS coordinates for trail intersections on previous page.

This map is rotated 90°, with NORTH pointed towards book spine →



Early morning on the Orange Trail, near the intersection with the Purple Trail.



Narrow creek-like waters of Orange Trail between Canal Run and Billys Island.



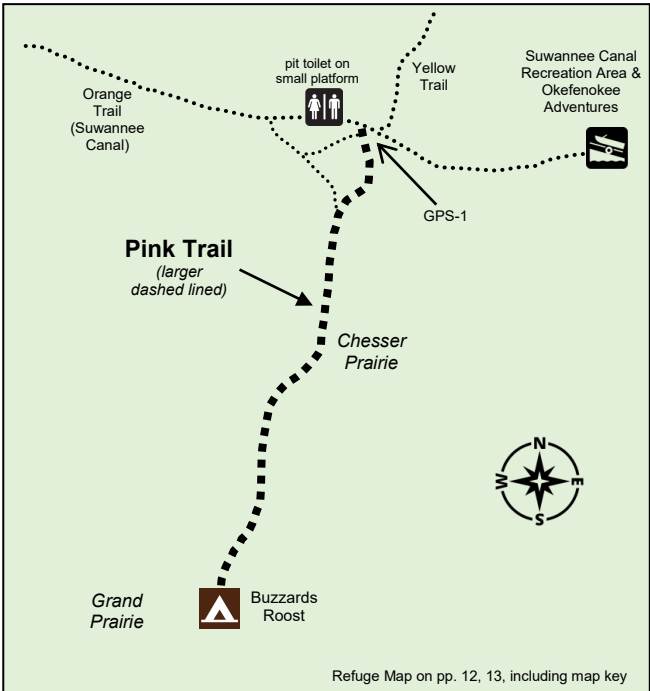
Pink Trail

Paddled this Trail Date: _____



Canoe campers heading towards Buzzards Roost on the Pink Trail.

General Location	East part of Refuge in Chesser Prairie, begins 2.0 miles from Suwannee Canal Recreation Area.
Connects	Orange Trail / Suwannee Canal with Buzzards Roost camping platform.
Length	5 miles.
Difficulty	Moderate.
Features	Iconic open prairies, grasslands, some trees, great place to see alligators and large wading birds.
Shelters	At the end of trail is the Buzzards Roost (p. 48) camping platform.
Current	Generally flows towards Suwannee Canal.
Precautions	There is little reprieve from the sun or wind. Due to the length and repetitiveness of the open prairie, it can often seem much longer than 5 miles.



Map above is not to scale and is for illustrative purposes only.

GPS-1: Beginning of Pink Trail

30°44'14.0"N, 82°10'29.3"W or 30.737230, -82.174807



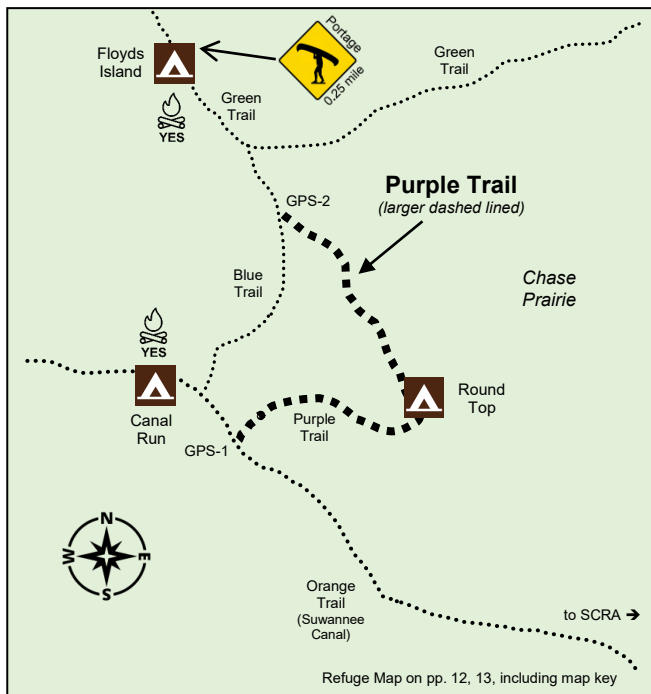
Purple Trail

Paddled this Trail Date: _____



The Purple Trail is a great place for bird photography.

General Location	East-central part of Refuge, skirts the edges of the Chase Prairie.
Connects	Orange Trail / Suwannee Canal with the Blue Trail and Green Trail, which heads to Floyds Island in northwest direction, and Bluff Lake in northeast direction.
Length	5.4 miles.
Difficulty	Easy to moderate.
Features	Prairies, grasslands, very few trees, great place to see alligators and large wading birds.
Shelters	Round Top (p. 62) camping platform.
Current	Generally flows northwest, towards Floyds Island direction.
Precautions	You're exposed to the elements on this trail. There is no reprieve from the sun or wind.



Map above is not to scale and is for illustrative purposes only.

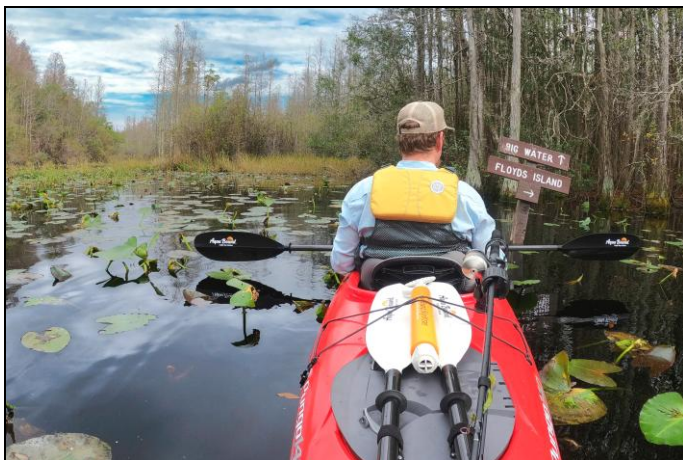
GPS-1: Orange Trail / Suwannee Canal intersection
30°48'13.8"N, 82°14'50.2"W or 30.803833, -82.247278

GPS-2: Blue Trail intersection
30°50'07.4"N, 82°14'50.8"W or 30.835384, -82.247456



Red Trail

Paddled this Trail Date: _____



On the Red Trail between Minnies Lake and Big Water.

General Location	Covers the remote north part of the Refuge, Suwannee River watershed, heads southwest to west-central part of the Refuge.
Connects	Begins at Kingfisher Landing, ends at Billys Lake and access to Stephen C. Foster State Park.
Length	30+ miles.
Difficulty	Very strenuous. Long days of paddling on this trail.
Features	Just about every type of feature in the Refuge; prairies, grasslands, wide river basin, narrow twisties, gorgeous cypress trees. You'll experience it all on this trail!
Shelters	Maul Hammock (p. 58), Big Water (p. 44), Minnies Lake (p. 66) day- use shelter.



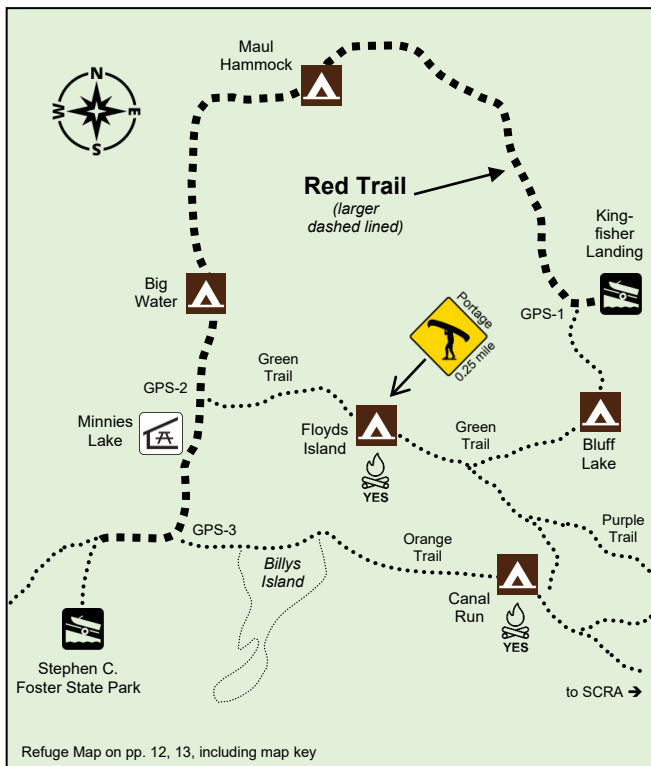
- Current** Generally flows south, in the direction of the Suwannee River.
- Precautions** For experienced paddlers and campers only. Paddling the entire Red Trail requires a minimum of 2 nights / 3 long days. Route: Stephen C. Foster State Park, to Big Water, to Maul Hammock, to Kingfisher Landing.
- Go Big !** Try the ultimate Okefenokee, expedition-level, winter 4 night loop beginning and ending at Kingfisher Landing, by adding the Green Trail. Route: Kingfisher, to Maul Hammock, to Big Water, to Floyds Island, portage across Floyds Island, then on to Bluff Lake, back to Kingfisher. (Note: not allowed during peak season of March 1 - April 30.)



Interesting cypress "knee" on the Red Trail, paddling north towards Minnies Lake.



Red Trail Map



Map above is not to scale and is for illustrative purposes only.

GPS-1: Green Trail intersection - EAST (near Kingfisher Landing)

30°57'16.1"N 82°09'06.6"W or 30.954472, -82.151833

GPS-2: Green Trail intersection - WEST (1.8 miles north of Minnies Lake)

30°52'31.8"N, 82°18'09.1"W or 30.875492, -82.302518

GPS-3: Orange Trail intersection

30°50'05.5"N, 82°20'35.4"W or 30.834862, -82.343155



One of the "locals" hanging out on the Red Trail, near Big Water. American Alligator.



The Red Trail has more cypress trees than any other trail in Okefenokee.



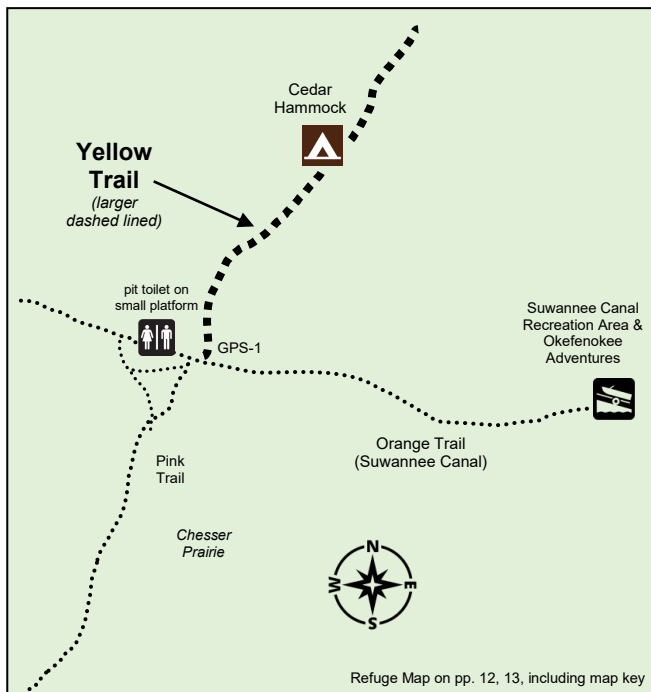
Yellow Trail

Paddled this Trail Date: _____



Kayak angler on the Yellow Trail, a little north of Cedar Hammock.

General Location	East part of Refuge, begins 1.9 miles from Suwannee Canal Recreation Area.
Connects	Orange Trail / Suwannee Canal with Cedar Hammock camping platform.
Length	2 miles.
Difficulty	Easy.
Features	Prairies, grasslands, very few trees, you'll probably see large wading birds, and maybe an alligator or two.
Shelters	0.9 mile up the trail is the Cedar Hammock (p. 52) camping platform.
Current	Negligible. Closer to the Orange Trail, there can be a slight current south.
Precautions	You are exposed to the elements on this trail; however, Cedar Hammock is not far away.



Map above is not to scale and is for illustrative purposes only.

GPS-1: Orange Trail / Suwannee Canal intersection

30°44'14.8"N, 82°10'14.7"W or 30.737444, -82.170750

Like this book? See it in full color.
There's a companion website!

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*Top left: Milky Way, photographed from Cedar Hammock.
Middle left: Great Blue Heron. Top right: kayaking Pink Trail.
Bottom: family canoeists on Orange Trail/Suwannee Canal.*

Okefenokee NWR



www.PaddleOkefenokee.com

Arriving at Maul Hammock for a night of camping.



Big Water Camping



Camped Here

Date: _____



The author's favorite campsite - Big Water platform on the Red Trail.

General Location North-central part of Refuge. See maps on pages 13, 38. Paddling route on page 20.

Trail Red Trail.

GPS Coordinates for Campsite 30°56'12.1"N, 82°16'47.1"W or 30.936701, -82.279736

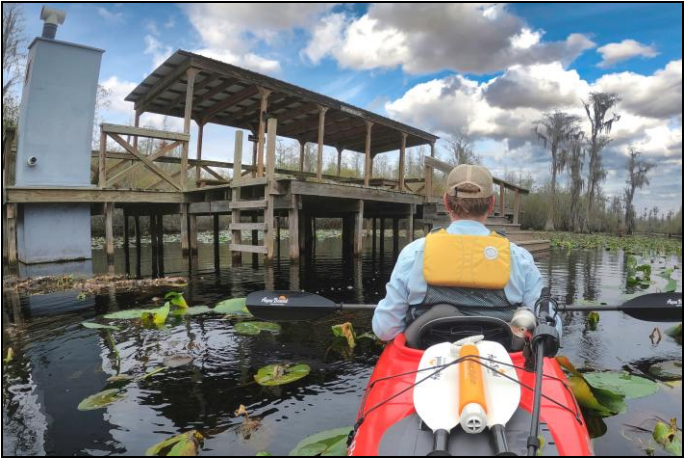
Type of Camping Wood platform over water. No dry land.

Mileage to Other Points of Interest

Camp-to-camp directions on p. 90

- SFSP - 11 miles
- Maul Hammock - 9 miles
- Floyds Island - 8 miles
- Minnies Lake day-use shelter - 7 miles
- Mixons Hammock - 13 miles
- Green Trail intersection - 5 miles

Notes Great views of the waterway. Beautiful paddle with lots of variety when coming from SFSP. Fantastic sunset/sunrise photo opportunities. This campsite takes a lot of effort to get to, is remote, and very much feels that way. Has vault/pit toilet.



Reaching Big Water after a long day of paddling from Stephen C. Foster State Park.



Dusk at the Big Water camping platform. Facing south direction.



Bluff Lake Camping

Camped Here Date: _____



Canoe camper at Bluff Lake in winter, on the Green Trail.

General Location Northeast part of Refuge. See maps on pages 13, 27. Paddling route on page 20.

Trail Green Trail.

GPS Coordinates for Campsite 30°52'41.5"N, 82°09'02.2"W or
30.878193, -82.150608

Type of Camping Wood platform over water. No dry land.

Mileage to Other Points of Interest Kingfisher Landing - 8 miles
Floyds Island - 9 miles
Round Top - 12 miles
Canal Run - 11 miles

Camp-to-camp
directions
on p. 89

Notes If coming from Kingfisher Landing, paddle 400-ft. across Bluff Lake (the actual lake / body of water), and the Bluff Lake shelter is 0.1 mile further southwest. At night, to the southeast, you'll see some faint Folkston, GA lights. Has vault/pit toilet.



Bluff Lake sits in the beautiful Territory Prairie.



Arriving at Bluff Lake after a long day of paddling from Floyds Island.



Buzzards Roost Camping

Camped Here Date: _____



Camping platform at Buzzards Roost. It sits in a quiet lake, far from civilization.

General Location Furthest south campsite; east side of Refuge.
Maps on pages 13, 33. Paddle route on p. 19.

Trail Pink Trail.

GPS Coordinates for Campsite 30°40'06.5"N, 82°12'26.3"W or
30.668472, -82.207306

Type of Camping Wood platform over water on the northwest side
of the very secluded, same-named "Buzzards
Roost Lake." This camp opened in March 2026.

Mileage to Other Points of Interest Suwannee Canal Recreation Area - 8 miles
Cedar Hammock - 8 miles
Canal Run - 14 miles
Round Top - 15 miles
Coffee Bay - 9 miles

Camp-to-camp
directions
on p. 85

Notes Has vault/pit toilet. Enjoy isolation at this
campsite! Replaces the decades-old Monkey
Lake camp. The animal noises at night
here can be loud, extraordinary!



Buzzards Roost Lake.



Solo camp setup at Buzzards Roost.



Canal Run Camping

Camped Here Date: _____



Canal Run camping platform in late Fall. This campsite backs up land.

General Location Middle-central part of Refuge. See maps on pages 13, 30. Paddling routes on pages 19, 20.

Trail Orange Trail.

GPS Coordinates for Campsite 30°48'55.6"N, 82°15'10.5"W or 30.815433, -82.252917

Type of Camping Wood platform. Half of the platform is over the water, backs up to and has access to land.

Mileage to Other Points of Interest SFSP - 7 miles, SCRA - 10 miles
Round Top - 3 or 6 miles
Floyds Island - 5 miles
Cedar Hammock - 9 miles
Mixons Hammock - 9 miles
Buzzards Rst - 14 miles, Billys Island - 5 miles
Bluff Lake - 11 miles, Coffee Bay - 4 miles

Camp-to-camp
directions
on p. 87

Notes



Located in a narrower part of the Suwannee Canal. Has a fire ring for campfires. Platform wood at this site can be slick when wet, even after morning dew. Has vault/pit toilet.



There's a fire ring at the Canal Run campsite.



Long exposure night photo at Canal Run. West direction.

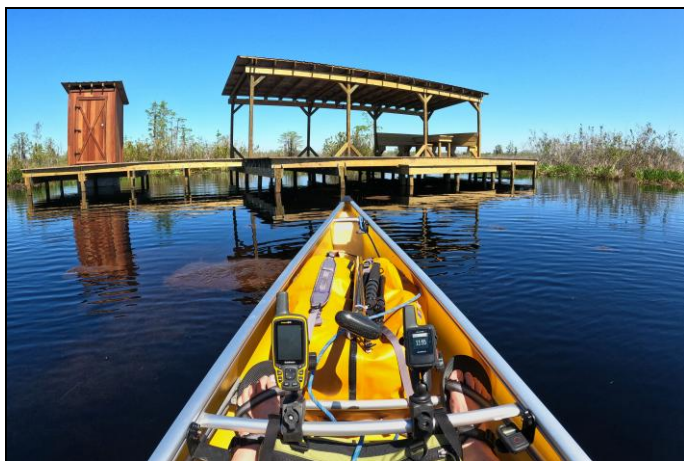


Cedar Hammock Camping



Camped Here

Date: _____



Cedar Hammock is one of the most accessible camping platforms in the Refuge.

General Location	East part of the Refuge. See maps on pages 13, 41. Paddling route on page 19.
Trail	Yellow Trail.
GPS Coordinates for Campsite	30°44'54.1"N, 82°10'23.1"W or 30.748367, -82.173083
Type of Camping	Platform over water. No dry land.
Mileage to Other Points of Interest	Suwannee Canal Recreation Area - 3 miles Buzzards Roost - 8 miles Canal Run - 9 miles Round Top - 11 miles Floyds Island - 13 miles Coffee Bay - 5 miles
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;">Camp-to-camp directions on p. 84</div>	
Notes	Great views of the surrounding prairie. Platform is constructed from plastic modular floating dock. At night, to the northeast, you'll see some faint Folkston, GA lights. Has vault/pit toilet. Best, first platform for newcomers!



Party of two kayakers, their gear, set up for a night of camping at Cedar Hammock.



Cedar Hammock sits in the beautiful Mizell Prairie.



Coffee Bay Camping

Camped Here Date: _____



Coffee Bay is an easy paddle from the Suwannee Canal Recreation Area.

- General Location** East part of the Refuge. See maps on pages 13, 30. Paddling route on page 19.
- Trail** Orange Trail.
- GPS Coordinates for Campsite** 30°45'41.9"N, 82°13'37.3"W or 30.761629, -82.227029
- Type of Camping** Wood platform. Half of the platform is over the water, backs up to and has access to land.
- Mileage to Other Points of Interest** Suwannee Canal Recreation Area - 6 miles
Cedar Hammock - 5 miles
Canal Run - 4 miles, Round Top - 6 miles
Buzzards Roost - 9 miles
Floyds Island - 8 miles
pit toilet on Suwannee Canal - 4 miles
- Camp-to-camp directions on p. 84
- Notes** Sits in narrow, beautiful section of the Suwannee Canal. Has raised/pit toilet 150-ft. away from shelter to the east. Paddlers that pass by here will use it as a rest stop.



Looking at Coffee Bay from the pit toilet side of the camping area.



Coffee Bay is a camping shelter again (Fall 2024); for years, it was for day-use only.



Floyds Island Camping

Camped Here Date: _____



Old hunting cabin on Floyds Island. There are many options for camping here.

General Location North of the middle of the Refuge. On an island. See maps on pages 13, 27. Paddling routes on pp. 19, 20.

Trail Green Trail.

GPS EAST Access 30°51'22.4"N, 82°15'52.3"W or 30.856217, -82.264533

GPS WEST Access 30°51'22.6"N, 82°16'04.4"W or 30.856267, -82.267883

Lots of Camping Options! You can camp in the Floyds Island hunting cabin, on the front porch or pitch your tent or hammock in front of the cabin. There's no electricity or potable water.

Mileage to Other Points of Interest Stephen C. Foster State Park - 9 miles
Suwannee Canal Recreation Area - 13 miles

Camp-to-camp
directions
on p. 88

Canal Run - 5 miles

Round Top - 6 miles

Big Water - 8 miles

Bluff Lake - 9 miles, Cedar Hammock - 13 miles

Mixons Hammock - 11 miles, Coffee Bay - 8 miles

Notes



Camp in the cabin - a unique & enjoyable experience. Crossing the island requires 1,300 ft. / 0.25 mile portage; a portage cart is provided. The portage is not difficult. Has a fire ring for campfires. Note: Vault/pit toilet is on the east side of island near water access.



Using the provided portage cart. It's a 1,300 ft. / 0.25 mile portage across the island.

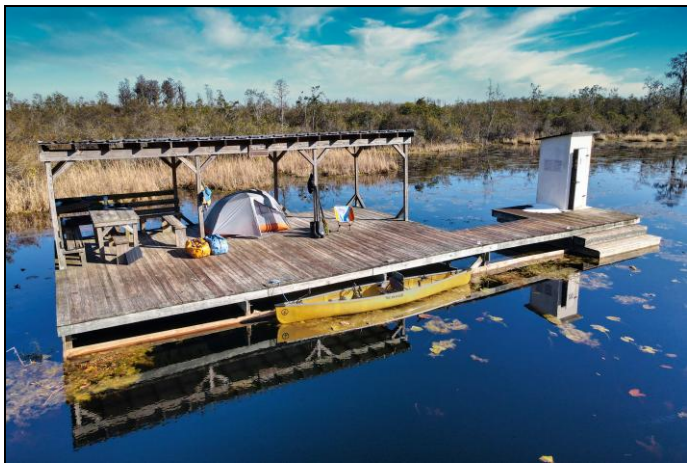


Raised vault/pit toilet is on the east side of the island near water access.



Maul Hammock Camping

Camped Here Date: _____



Maul Hammock is the most remote campsite in Okefenokee.

General Location North, remote part of the Refuge. See maps on pages 13, 38. Paddling route on page 20.

Trail Red Trail.

GPS Coordinates for Campsite 31°00'58.4"N, 82°15'23.8"W or
31.016233, -82.256600

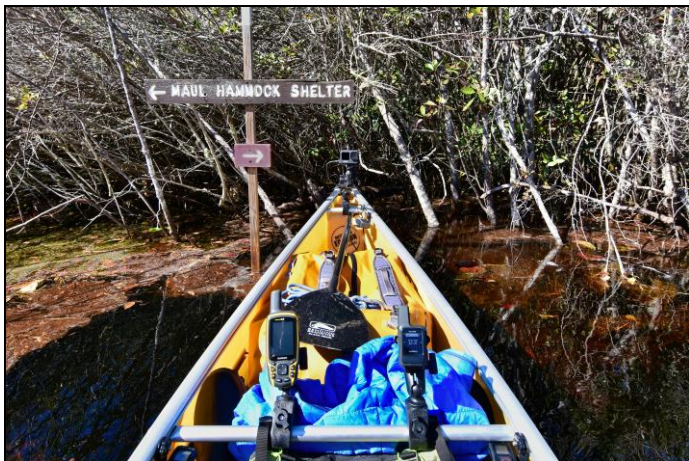
Type of Camping Wood platform over water. No dry land.

Mileage to Other Points of Interest Kingfisher Landing - 12 miles
Big Water - 9 miles

Camp-to-camp
directions
on p. 90

For strong paddlers only. The paddle from Kingfisher to Maul Hammock can be a challenge. It's nearly all open prairie and grasslands. This can make the 12-mile haul seem much longer than it already is. There are no rest stops or places to get out and stretch your legs. At night, to the north, you'll see some faint Waycross, GA lights. The campsite has a vault/pit toilet.

Notes



It's a long paddle to Maul Hammock. 12 miles from Kingfisher; 9 miles from Big Water.



Maul Hammock sits in a beautiful lake. Sunset in winter.



Mixons Hammock Camping

Camped Here Date: _____



This is one of only two land-based campsites in Okefenokee (the other is Floyds Island).

General Location Furthest west campsite in the Refuge. Only 2 miles from Stephen C. Foster SP. See maps on pages 12, 25. Paddling route on page 19.

Trail Brown Trail.

GPS Coordinates for Campsite 30°49'26.7"N, 82°22'53.3"W or 30.824083, -82.381467

Type of Camping On island / land. Old railroad bed area.

Mileage to Other Points of Interest Stephen C. Foster State Park - 2 miles
Big Water - 13 miles

Canal Run - 9 miles
Floyds Island - 11 miles
Billys Island access - 3.2 miles

Camp-to-camp directions on p. 91

Notes



There is a lot of room to spread out at Mixons Hammock. Plenty of options for hammock campers. Insects can be a nuisance here in all but the coldest months; bring lots of repellent. Has a fire ring for campfires. Has vault/pit toilet.



Campsite landing (at lower water) and the vault/pit toilet at Mixons Hammock.



Be bear aware! There are bear warnings at Mixons Hammock. Take this seriously!



Round Top Camping

Camped Here Date: _____



Round Top platform offers impressive 360-degree views of the surrounding prairie.

- General Location** East side of the Refuge. See maps on pages 13, 35. Paddle route on page 19.
- Trail** Purple Trail.
- GPS Coordinates for Campsite** 30°48'13.0"N, 82°13'12.0"W or 30.803607, -82.219992
- Type of Camping** Wood platform over water. No dry land.
- Mileage to Other Points of Interest** Suwannee Canal Recreation Area - 12 miles
Cedar Hammock - 11 miles
Floyds Island - 6 miles
Canal Run -3 or 6 miles
Bluff Lake - 12 miles, Billys Island - 9 miles
Buzzards Roost - 15 miles
Stephen C. Foster State Park - 11 miles
Coffee Bay - 6 miles
- Camp-to-camp directions on p. 86
- Notes** Known among paddlers and photographers as the absolute best 360-degree views in the Refuge; night sky photography can be amazing here. Has vault/pit toilet.



Milky Way over Round Top platform in early Fall.



Looking across the beautiful Chase Prairie from Round Top camp.

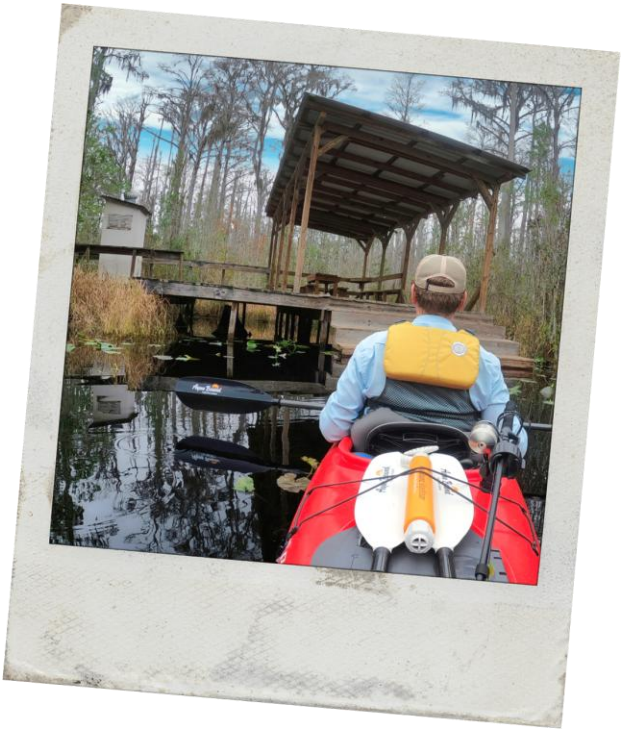
Like this book? See it in full color.
There's a companion website!

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Top left: Super cool “Gateway To The Okefenokee” water tower with alligator in Folkston, GA. Middle left: Egret & Ibis taking flight on Green Trail. Top right: kayaking the Suwannee Canal in winter, heading to Canal Run. Bottom: kayaking the Purple Trail.

Okefenokee NWR



www.PaddleOkefenokee.com

Kayaker arriving at Minnies Lake day-use shelter.



Minnies Lake Day-Use Shelter



Visited Here

Date: _____



Minnies Lake day-use shelter on the Red Trail.

General Location	West-central part of Refuge. See maps on pages 12, 38.
Trail	Red Trail.
GPS Coordinates for Shelter	30°51'40.5"N, 82°19'24.3"W or 30.861235, -82.323412
Structure Type	Wood platform over water. No dry land.
Mileage to Other Points of Interest	Stephen C. Foster State Park - 4 miles Big Water - 7 miles north on Red Trail Floyds Island - 5.5 miles Green Trail intersection - 1.8 miles northeast Red / Orange Trail intersection - 2.4 miles south Billys Island access - 4 miles
Notes	Large covered break/picnic area with table and movable benches. Has vault/pit toilet. Camping is not allowed at day-use shelters.

Pit Toilet – Suwannee Canal



Date: _____

Visited Here



Pit toilet on small platform on the Suwannee Canal / Orange Trail.

General Location	East side of Refuge. See maps on pages 13 and 30 for larger surrounding area.
Trail	Orange Trail / Suwannee Canal.
GPS Coordinates for Pit Toilet	30°44'17.3"N, 82°10'24.2"W or 30.738144, -82.173377
Structure Type	Wood platform over water. No dry land.
Mileage to Other Points of Interest	Suwannee Canal Recreation Area - 2 miles Cedar Hammock - 1.0 mile Canal Run - 7.8 miles Buzzards Roost - 5.5 miles Coffee Bay - 3.7 miles Round Top - 9.5 miles
Notes	<u>Not a day-use shelter!</u> Just a tiny platform with a vault/pit toilet. Located on the Orange Trail, 900 feet past the Yellow Trail intersection, heading towards Canal Run. Exercise caution getting out on this platform can be tricky and slick when wet.



Billys Island

Visited Here Date: _____



Arriving at Billys Island. Note the dock/steps, upper left of photo.

- | | |
|--|---|
| General Location | West part of Refuge.
See maps on pages 12, 30, 38. |
| Trail | Orange Trail. |
| GPS Coordinates for Island Access | 30°49'53.3"N, 82°19'57.9"W or
30.831474, -82.332757 |
| It's an Island | Plenty of room to move around on dry land/island. |
| Mileage to Other Points of Interest | Stephen C. Foster State Park - 2 miles
Minnies Lake day-use shelter - 4 miles
Mixons Hammock - 3 miles
Canal Run - 5 miles
Orange / Red Trail intersection - 0.6 miles west |
| Notes | Lots of room to stretch your legs here. Billys Island has walking trails, interpretative signage, and remnants from Okefenokee's logging history in the early 20 th century. You can land your kayak/canoe on the island, or there's a dock/boardwalk for high water times. This is a favorite day-paddling destination and a great place to have lunch. |

Photos – More of What You'll See!

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Egret in the Chase Prairie near Round Top.



Entrance signage at Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge; East / SCRA side.



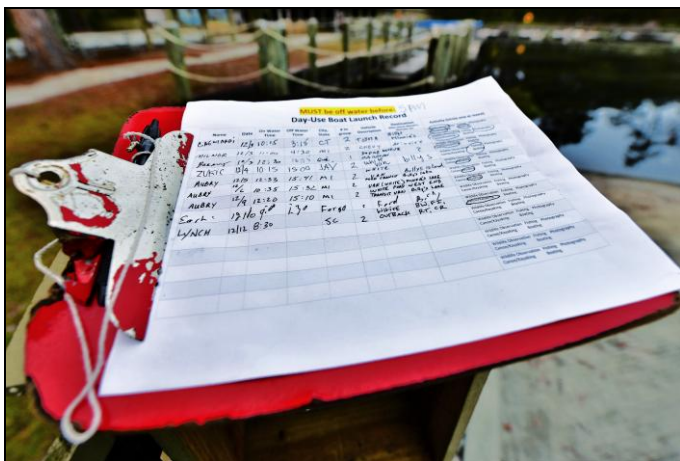
Typical mileage marker on the paddling trails. On the Pink Trail in the Chesser Prairie.



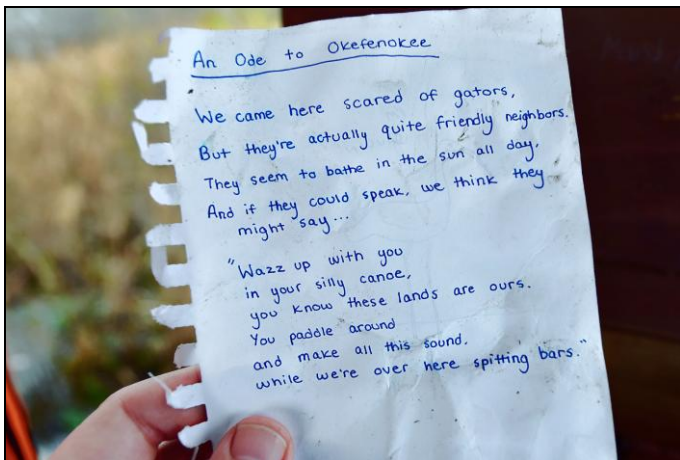
You'll be paddling an exciting National Water Trail.



Great Blue Heron on Billys Lake.



You must sign in and out at boat ramps. Pictured: Stephen C. Foster State Park.



You'll often find humorous notes left behind by campers. Journal box at Round Top.



Bring rope and tie off your canoe or kayak to the camping platform. Cedar Hammock.



Okefenokee is great fishing; you must have a current Georgia fishing license.



American Alligator. You're likely to see lots of these "locals" in the Okefenokee.



There's always good signage on the paddling trails. It's easy to navigate Okefenokee.



Barred Owl on the Pink Trail in the Chesser Prairie.



Sandhill Cranes photographed from Round Top. These birds are big and loud!



Every campsite and day-use shelter has a vault/pit toilet. Pictured: Cedar Hammock.



In warmer months, you'll see thousands of water lilies on the trails with prairies.



Red-Shouldered Hawk on the Red Trail near Big Water.



Which way to go? More great signage on the trail.



Getting out of your boat, and up on the platforms, can often be tricky!



Inside Floyds Cabin - you can sleep here! There's no electricity or potable water.



Yellow-Crowned Night Heron near Buzzards Roost.



American Ibis on Yellow Trail near Cedar Hammock.



You'll see beautiful Hooded Pitcher Plants on just about every grassland/prairie trail.



There are many varieties of water lilies in the Okefenokee.



Common Gallinule (Moorhen, swamp chicken) on the Purple Trail in the Chase Prairie.



You might encounter motorized boat tours near SCRA and SFSP.

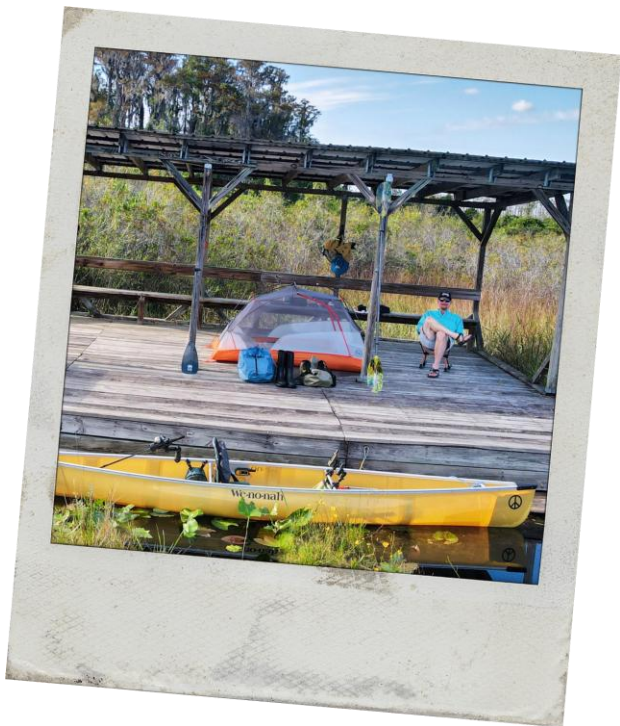
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Top left: Pied-billed grebe on Yellow Trail. Middle left: there are lots of cypress knees in the Okefenokee. Top right: kayaker on the Red Trail. Bottom: canoe camper on the Orange Trail.

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Relaxing at Bluff Lake after a long day of paddling.



Appendix: Camp-to-Camp Directions

Cedar Hammock CAMP to:

Campsite information p. 52

GPS: 30°44'54.1"N, 82°10'23.1"W or 30.748367, -82.173083

Buzzards Roost - 8 miles, campsite information p. 48

1. South on Yellow Trail for 0.9 mile to Orange Trail. Turn right.¹
2. After 250-ft. on Orange Trail, bear left at split/signage.²
3. Paddle another 1,000-ft, turn left on Pink Trail.³
4. Paddle 5.2 miles on Pink Trail, arrive at Buzzards Roost camp.⁴

Coffee Bay - 5 miles, campsite information p. 54

1. South on Yellow Trail for 0.9 mile to Orange Trail. Turn right.¹
2. After 250-ft. on Orange Trail, bear right at split/signage.²
3. Arrive at Coffee Bay 3.8 miles further.⁵

Canal Run - 9 miles, campsite information p. 50

4. South on Yellow Trail for 0.9 mile to Orange Trail. Turn right.¹
5. After 250-ft. on Orange Trail, bear right at split/signage.²
6. Pass by Coffee Bay 3.8 miles further.⁵
7. Paddle 4.2 miles further, arrive at Canal Run camp on the left.⁶

Round Top - 11 miles, campsite information p. 62

1. South on Yellow Trail for 0.9 mile to Orange Trail. Turn right.¹
2. After 250-ft. on Orange Trail, bear right at split/signage.²
3. Pass by Coffee Bay 3.8 miles further.⁵
4. Continue 3.3 miles. Turn right on Purple Trail.⁷
5. Paddle 2.4 miles on Purple Trail, arrive at Round Top camp.⁸

Floyds Island - 13 miles, campsite information p. 56

1. South on Yellow Trail for 0.9 mile to Orange Trail. Turn right.¹
2. After 250-ft. on Orange Trail, bear right at split/signage.²
3. Pass by Coffee Bay 3.8 miles further.⁵
4. Continue 4.1 miles. Bear right on Blue Trail.⁹
5. After 0.4 mile, bear right to continue Blue Trail.¹⁰
6. Blue Trail intersects Purple Trail in 1.4 miles. Continue straight.¹¹
7. Blue Trail ends at Green Trail 0.8 mile further. Continue straight.¹²
8. Paddle 1.0 mile on Green Trail, arrive at Floyds Island EAST access.¹³

Coffee Bay CAMP to:

Campsite information p. 54

GPS: 30°45'41.9"N, 82°13'37.3"W or 30.761629, -82.227029

Cedar Hammock - 5 miles, campsite information p. 52

1. Right/southeast on the Orange Trail.

Superscript
Numbers at
end of sentence:
GPS info. on
pp. 92 – 93





2. After 4 miles, turn left on the Yellow Trail.¹
3. Paddle 0.9 mile on the Yellow Trail, arrive at Cedar Hammock.¹⁴

Buzzards Roost - 9 miles, campsite information p. 48

1. Right/southeast on Orange Trail for 3.8 miles.
2. Arrive at Orange Trail split/signage. Continue around the split, in the direction of "CHESSER PRAIRIE" and Pink Trail.²
3. Paddle 1,000-ft, turn left on Pink Trail.³
4. Paddle 5.2 miles on Pink Trail, arrive at Buzzards Roost camp.⁴

Canal Run - 4 miles, campsite information p. 50

1. Left/northwest on Orange Trail.
2. Arrive at Canal Run in 4.2 miles.⁶

Round Top - 6 miles, campsite information p. 62

1. Left/northwest on Orange Trail.
2. Continue 3.3 miles. Turn right on Purple Trail.⁷
3. Paddle 2.4 miles on Purple Trail, arrive at Round Top camp.⁸

Floyds Island - 8 miles, campsite information p. 56

1. Left/northwest on Orange Trail.
2. Continue 4.1 miles. Bear right on Blue Trail.⁹
3. After 0.4 mile, bear right to continue Blue Trail.¹⁰
4. Blue Trail intersects Purple Trail in 1.4 miles. Continue straight.¹¹
5. Blue Trail ends at Green Trail 0.8 mile further. Continue straight.¹²
6. Paddle 1.0 mile on Green Trail, arrive at Floyds Island EAST access.¹³

Buzzards Roost CAMP to:

Campsite information p. 48

GPS: 30°40'07.2"N, 82°12'25.3"W or 30.668667, -82.207028

Cedar Hammock - 8 miles, campsite information p. 52

1. Paddle north on Pink Trail for 5.2 miles. Turn right.³
2. Continue nearly 0.25 mile to start of Yellow Trail. Turn left.¹
3. Paddle 0.9 mile on Yellow Trail, arrive at Cedar Hammock camp.¹⁴

Coffee Bay - 9 miles, campsite information p. 54

1. Paddle north on Pink Trail for 5.2 miles. Turn right.^{3 **} (see note, top of p. 86 under Canal Run, # 1)
2. Paddle 1,000-ft. to Orange Trail split/signage. Continue around the split, in direction of "CHASE PRAIRIE" and Orange Trail.²
3. Arrive at Coffee Bay 3.8 miles further.⁵



Appendix: Camp-to-Camp Directions

Canal Run - 13 miles, campsite information p. 50

1. Paddle north on Pink Trail for 5.2 miles. Turn right.^{3 **}
- **** Alternatively, you can turn left and arrive further at Orange Trail in 1.3 miles. However, this route only saves 0.1 mile, and you'll miss one of the most scenic parts of Orange Trail. Not recommended.
2. Paddle 1,000-ft. to Orange Trail split/signage. Continue around the split, in direction of "CHASE PRAIRIE" and Orange Trail.²
 3. Pass by Coffee Bay 3.8 miles further.⁵
 4. Paddle 4.2 miles further, arrive at Canal Run camp on left.⁶

Round Top - 15 miles, campsite information p. 62

1. Paddle north on Pink Trail for 5.2 miles. Turn right.^{3 **} (see note above)
2. Paddle 1,000-ft. to Orange Trail split/signage. Continue around the split, in direction of "CHASE PRAIRIE" and Orange Trail.²
3. Pass by Coffee Bay 3.8 miles further.⁵
4. Continue 3.3 miles. Turn right on Purple Trail.⁷
5. Paddle 2.4 miles on Purple Trail, arrive at Round Top camp.⁸

Round Top CAMP to:

Campsite information p. 62

GPS: 30°48'13.0"N, 82°13'12.0"W or 30.803607, -82.219992

Canal Run - campsite information p. 50

via Suwannee Canal - 3 miles

1. Right/south on Purple Trail until it ends in 2.4 miles.
2. At end of Purple Trail/intersection with Orange Trail, turn right.⁷
3. Paddle 0.9 miles on Orange Trail, arrive at Canal Run camp on left.⁶

via Purple Trail - 6 miles

1. Left/north on Purple Trail for 3.0 miles.
2. Make sharp left on Blue Trail, now heading south.¹¹
3. In 1.4 miles, turn left into canal-looking area to continue Blue Trail.¹⁰
4. Continue 0.4 mile down canal, turn right at Orange Trail.⁹
5. Paddle 800-ft., arrive at Canal Run camp on left.⁶

Coffee Bay - 6 miles, campsite information p. 54

1. Right/south on Purple Trail until it ends in 2.4 miles.
2. At end of Purple Trail/intersection with Orange Trail, turn left.⁷
3. Paddle 3.3 miles, arrive at Coffee Bay.⁵

Floyds Island - 6 miles, campsite information p. 56

1. Left/north on Purple Trail for 3.0 miles. At intersection with Blue Trail, continue straight.¹¹
2. In 0.8 mile further, intersection with Green Trail. Continue straight.¹²
3. Paddle 1.0 mile on Green Trail, arrive at Floyds Island EAST access.¹³



Bluff Lake - 12 miles, campsite information p. 46

1. Left/north on Purple Trail for 3.0 miles. At intersection with Blue Trail, continue straight.¹¹
2. In 0.8 mile further, intersection with Green Trail. Turn right.¹²
3. Paddle 7.7 miles on Green Trail, arrive at Bluff Lake camp.¹⁵

Buzzards Roost - 15 miles, campsite information p. 48

1. Right/south on Purple Trail until it ends in 2.4 miles.
2. At end of Purple Trail/intersection with Orange Trail, turn left.⁷
3. Paddle 3.3 miles, pass by Coffee Bay.⁵
4. In 3.8 miles further, arrive at Orange Trail split/signage. Continue around the split, in direction of "CHESSER PRAIRIE" and Pink Trail.²
5. Paddle 1,000-ft, turn left on Pink Trail.³
6. Paddle 5.2 miles on Pink Trail, arrive at Buzzards Roost camp.⁴

Cedar Hammock - 11 miles, campsite information p. 52

4. Right/south on Purple Trail until it ends in 2.4 miles.
5. At end of Purple Trail/intersection with Orange Trail, turn left.⁷
6. Paddle 3.3 miles, pass by Coffee Bay.⁵
7. A little past 3.8 miles further, come to Yellow Trail on left. Turn here.¹
8. Paddle 0.9 mile on Yellow Trail, arrive at Cedar Hammock camp.¹⁴

Canal Run CAMP to:

Campsite information p. 50

GPS: 30°48'55.6"N, 82°15'10.5"W or 30.815433, -82.252917

Round Top - campsite information p. 62

via Suwannee Canal - 3 miles

1. Right/east on Orange Trail 0.9 mile to Purple Trail. Turn left.⁷
2. Paddle 2.4 miles on Purple Trail, arrive at Round Top camp.⁸

via Purple Trail - 6 miles

1. Right/east on Orange Trail for 800-ft. Left on Blue Trail.⁹
2. After 0.4 mile, bear right to continue Blue Trail.¹⁰
3. Blue Trail intersects Purple Trail in 1.4 miles. Turn sharp right.¹¹
4. Paddle 3.0 miles on Purple Trail, arrive at Round Top camp.⁸

Coffee Bay - 4 miles, campsite information p. 54

1. Right/east on Orange Trail.
2. Arrive at Coffee Bay in 4.2 miles.⁵

Floyds Island - 5 miles, campsite information p. 56

1. Right/east on Orange Trail for 800-ft. Left on Blue Trail.⁹
2. After 0.4 mile, bear right to continue Blue Trail.¹⁰
3. Blue Trail intersects Purple Trail in 1.4 miles. Continue straight.¹¹
4. Blue Trail ends at Green Trail 0.8 mile further. Continue straight.¹²
5. Paddle 1.0 mile on Green Trail, arrive at Floyds Island EAST access.¹³



Appendix: Camp-to-Camp Directions

Bluff Lake - 11 miles, campsite information p. 46

1. Right/east on Orange Trail for 800-ft. Left on Blue Trail.⁹
2. After 0.4 mile, bear right to continue Blue Trail.¹⁰
3. Blue Trail intersects Purple Trail in 1.4 miles. Continue straight.¹¹
4. Blue Trail ends at Green Trail 0.8 mile further. Turn right.¹²
5. Paddle 7.7 miles on Green Trail, arrive at Bluff Lake camp.¹⁵

Mixons Hammock - 9 miles, campsite information p. 60

1. Left/west on Orange Trail for 5.3 miles. Pass by Billys Island.¹⁶
2. Pass by canal to SFSP 1.7 miles further. Continue straight on Brown Trail.¹⁷
3. Paddle 1.5 miles further, arrive at Mixons Hammock on right.¹⁸

Buzzards Roost - 13 miles, campsite information p. 48

5. Right/east on Orange Trail. Pass by Coffee Bay shelter in 4.2 miles.⁵
6. In 3.8 miles further, arrive at Orange Trail split/signage. Continue around the split, in direction of "CHESSER PRAIRIE" and Pink Trail.²
7. Paddle 1,000-ft, turn left on Pink Trail.³
8. Paddle 5.2 miles on Pink Trail, arrive at Buzzards Roost camp.⁴

Cedar Hammock - 9 miles, campsite information p. 52

3. Right/east on Orange Trail. Pass by Coffee Bay in 4.2 miles.⁵
4. A little past 3.8 miles further, come to Yellow Trail on left. Turn here.¹
5. Paddle 0.9 mile on Yellow Trail, arrive at Cedar Hammock camp.¹⁴

Floyds Island CAMP to:

Campsite information p. 56

GPS - EAST Access: 30°51'22.4"N, 82°15'52.3"W or 30.856217, -82.264533

GPS - WEST Access: 30°51'22.6"N, 82°16'04.4"W or 30.856267, -82.267883

Canal Run - 5 miles, campsite information p. 50

1. From EAST access, begin Green Trail. At 1.0 mile, bear right/straight on Blue Trail.¹²
2. Blue Trail intersects with Purple Trail 0.8 mile further. Bear right/straight to stay on Blue Trail.¹¹
3. In 1.4 miles, turn left into canal-looking area to continue Blue Trail.¹⁰
4. Continue 0.4 mile down canal, turn right at Orange Trail.⁹
5. Paddle 800-ft., arrive at Canal Run on left.⁶

Round Top - 6 miles, campsite information p. 62

1. From EAST access, begin Green Trail. At 1.0 mile, bear right/straight on Blue Trail.¹²
2. Blue Trail intersects with Purple Trail 0.8 mile further. Bear left to begin Purple Trail.¹¹
3. Paddle 3.0 miles on Purple Trail, arrive at Round Top camp.⁸



Coffee Bay - 8 miles, campsite information p. 54

1. From EAST access, begin Green Trail. At 1.0 mile, bear right/straight on Blue Trail.¹²
2. In 2.2 miles, turn left into canal-looking area to continue Blue Trail.¹⁰
3. Continue 0.4 mile down canal, turn left at Orange Trail.⁹
4. Arrive at Coffee Bay in 4.1 miles.⁵

Bluff Lake - 9 miles, campsite information p. 66

1. From EAST access, begin Green Trail. At 1.0 mile, turn left to continue Green Trail.¹²
2. Paddle another 7.7 miles on Green Trail, arrive at Bluff Lake camp.¹⁵

Cedar Hammock - 13 miles, campsite information p. 52

1. From EAST access, begin Green Trail. At 1.0 mile, bear right/straight on Blue Trail.¹²
2. In 2.2 miles, turn left into canal-looking area to continue Blue Trail.¹⁰
3. Continue 0.4 mile down canal, turn left at Orange Trail.⁹
4. Pass by Coffee Bay in 4.1 miles.⁵
5. A little past 3.8 miles further, come to Yellow Trail on left. Turn here.¹
6. Paddle 0.9 mile on Yellow Trail, arrive at Cedar Hammock camp.¹⁴

Big Water - 8 miles, campsite information p. 44

1. From WEST access, begin Green Trail. At 3.1 miles, turn right on Red Trail.¹⁹
2. Paddle 5.0 miles on Red Trail, arrive at Big Water camp.²⁰

Mixons Hammock - 11 miles, campsite information p. 60

1. From WEST access, begin Green Trail. At 3.1 miles, turn left on Red Trail.¹⁹
2. Pass by Minnies Lake day-use shelter in 1.8 miles.²¹
3. Paddle 2.4 miles further on Red Trail to Orange Trail/Billys Lake intersection. Turn right.²²
4. In 1.1 miles, pass by canal to SFSP. Continue straight on Brown Trail.¹⁷
5. Paddle 1.5 miles further, arrive at Mixons Hammock on right.¹⁸

Bluff Lake CAMP to:

Campsite information p. 46

GPS: 30°52'41.5"N, 82°09'02.2"W or 30.878193, -82.150608

Floyds Island - 9 miles, campsite information p. 56

1. Right/southwest on Green Trail. At 7.7 miles, turn right to continue Green Trail.¹²
2. Continue 1.0 mile further on Green Trail, arrive at Floyds Island EAST access.¹³



Appendix: Camp-to-Camp Directions

Round Top - 12 miles, campsite information p. 62

1. Right/southwest on Green Trail. At 7.7 miles, turn left on Blue Trail.¹²
2. Blue Trail intersects with Purple Trail 0.8 mile further. Bear left to begin Purple Trail.¹¹
3. Paddle 3.0 miles on Purple Trail, arrive at Round Top camp.⁸

Canal Run - 11 miles, campsite information p. 50

1. Right/southwest on Green Trail. At 7.7 miles, turn left on Blue Trail.¹²
2. Blue Trail intersects with Purple Trail 0.8 mile further. Bear right/straight to stay on Blue Trail.¹¹
3. In 1.4 miles, turn left into canal-looking area to continue Blue Trail.¹⁰
4. Continue 0.4 mile down canal, turn right at Orange Trail.⁹
5. Paddle 800-ft., arrive at Canal Run on left.⁶

Maul Hammock CAMP to:

Campsite information p. 58

GPS: 31°00'58.4"N, 82°15'23.8"W or 31.016233, -82.256600

Big Water - 9 miles, campsite information p. 44

1. From the camping platform, return to the Red Trail at edge of the lake.
2. Paddle 120 ft. and bear left (north-northeast) at the trail split.²³
3. Continue on Red Trail for 9 miles, arrive at Big Water camp.²⁰

Big Water CAMP to:

Campsite information p. 44

GPS: 30°56'12.1"N, 82°16'47.1"W or 30.936701, -82.279736

Maul Hammock - 9 miles, campsite information p. 58

Left/north on Red Trail for 9 miles and arrive at Maul Hammock camp.²⁴

Floyds Island - 8 miles, campsite information p. 56

1. Right/south on Red Trail for 5.0 miles. Turn left on Green Trail.¹⁹
2. Paddle 3.1 miles on Green Trail, end at Floyds Island WEST access.²⁵

Mixons Hammock - 13 miles, campsite information p. 60

1. Right/south on Red Trail.
2. Pass by Minnies Lake day-use shelter in 6.8 miles.²¹
3. Paddle 2.4 miles further on Red Trail to Orange Trail/Billys Lake intersection. Turn right.²²
4. In 1.1 miles, pass by canal to SFSP. Continue straight on Brown Trail.¹⁷
5. Paddle 1.5 miles further, arrive at Mixons Hammock on right.¹⁸



Mixons Hammock CAMP to:

Campsite information p. 60

GPS: 30°49'26.7"N, 82°22'53.3"W or 30.824083, -82.381467

Canal Run - 9 miles, campsite information p. 50

1. Left/east on Brown Trail for 1.5 miles, pass by canal to SFSP.¹⁷
2. Pass by Billys Island 1.7 miles further (on Orange Trail at this point).¹⁶
3. Continue Orange Trail for 5.3 miles further, arrive at Canal Run camp.⁶

Floyds Island - 11 miles, campsite information p. 56

1. Left/east on Brown Trail for 1.5 miles, pass by canal to SFSP.¹⁷
2. Paddle another 1.1 miles, turn left on Red Trail.²²
3. Pass by Minnies Lake day-use shelter in 2.4 miles further.²¹
4. Continue another 1.8 miles on Red Trail, turn right on Green Trail.¹⁹
5. Paddle 3.1 miles on Green Trail, end at Floyds Island WEST access.²⁵

Big Water - 13 miles, campsite information p. 44

1. Left/east on Brown Trail for 1.5 miles, pass by canal to SFSP.¹⁷
2. Paddle another 1.1 miles, turn left on Red Trail.²²
3. Pass by Minnies Lake day-use shelter in 2.4 miles further.²¹
4. Continue another 6.8 miles, arrive at Big Water camp.²⁰



Appendix: GPS Data for Trails, Camps

GPS Coordinates for Trails and Camps (pp. 19, 20, 84 - 91)

- 1 Orange Trail / Yellow Trail intersection
30°44'14.8"N, 82°10'14.7"W or 30.737442, -82.170742
- 2 Orange Trail split / signage
30°44'14.8"N, 82°10'17.9"W or 30.737449, -82.171633
- 3 Beginning of Pink Trail
30°44'14.0"N, 82°10'29.3"W or 30.737230, -82.174807
- 4 Buzzards Roost camp
30°40'06.2"N, 82°12'26.3"W or 30.668472, -82.207306
- 5 Coffee Bay camp
30°45'41.9"N, 82°13'37.3"W or 30.761629, -82.227029
- 6 Canal Run camp
30°48'55.6"N, 82°15'10.5"W or 30.815433, -82.252917
- 7 Orange Trail / Purple Trail intersection
30°48'13.8"N, 82°14'50.2"W or 30.803833, -82.247278
- 8 Round Top camp
30°48'13.0"N, 82°13'12.0"W or 30.803607, -82.219992
- 9 Orange Trail / Blue Trail intersection
30°48'51.0"N, 82°15'02.6"W or 30.814165, -82.250723
- 10 Turn in Blue Trail
30°49'10.6"N, 82°15'02.8"W or 30.819621, -82.250790
- 11 Blue Trail / Purple Trail intersection
30°50'07.4"N, 82°14'50.8"W or 30.835384, -82.247456
- 12 Blue Trail / Green Trail intersection
30°50'43.8"N, 82°15'11.5"W or 30.845498, -82.253180
- 13 Floyds Island EAST access
30°51'22.4"N, 82°15'52.3"W or 30.856217, -82.264533
- 14 Cedar Hammock camp
30°44'54.1"N, 82°10'23.1"W or 30.748367, -82.173083
- 15 Bluff Lake camp
30°52'41.5"N, 82°09'02.2"W or 30.878193, -82.150608
- 16 Billys Island day-use area (hiking, picnic)
30°49'53.3"N, 82°19'57.9"W or 30.831474, -82.332757
- 17 Intersection with canal to Stephen C. Foster State Park
30°49'54.3"N, 82°21'36.9"W or 30.831743, -82.360253
- 18 Mixons Hammock camp
30°49'26.7"N, 82°22'53.3"W or 30.824083, -82.381467
- 19 Red Trail / Green Trail intersection WEST
30°52'31.8"N, 82°18'09.1"W or 30.875492, -82.302518



- 20 Big Water camp
30°56'12.1"N, 82°16'47.1"W or 30.936701, -82.279736
- 21 Minnies Lake day-use shelter
30°51'40.5"N, 82°19'24.3"W or 30.861235, -82.323412
- 22 Red Trail / Orange Trail / Billys Lake intersection
30°50'05.5"N, 82°20'35.4"W or 30.834862, -82.343155
- 23 Maul Hammock lake Red Trail SPLIT
31°01'01.4"N, 82°15'24.1"W or 31.017064, -82.256687
- 24 Maul Hammock camp
31°00'58.4"N, 82°15'23.8"W or 31.016233, -82.256600
- 25 Floyds Island WEST access
30°51'22.6"N, 82°16'04.4"W or 30.856267, -82.267883
- 26 Red Trail / Green Trail intersection EAST
30°57'16.1"N 82°09'06.6"W or 30.954472, -82.151833



Maul Hammock camp, on the Yellow Trail.

NOTE: Drones are NOT permitted in the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. The author obtained permission from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to publish low aerial images for the purpose of this publication.

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There's a companion website!

www.PaddleOkefenokee.com



Top left: Watching dusk from a tent at Maul Hammock. Middle left: Signage at camping platforms. Top right: Bring a bug head net, even in the colder months; if not, you'll make some unwanted friends! Bottom: A "local" hanging out at Coffee Bay.

Okefenokee NWR



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*Pro Tip: Using a ThermoCell to keep the **mosquitos** away at Coffee Bay, **in January** !! Yes, mosquitos and other pesky bugs are around every month of the year in Okefenokee.*



Best Okefenokee Camping Tips

The Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge can be intimidating for most newcomers. I've been paddling, camping and exploring for decades, and it was even this way for me when I first started going to the Okefenokee. Over the years, I've learned some tips and tricks along the way, and whenever I take others into the Refuge, I share these.

1. Wash your canoe or kayak before you leave for Okefenokee. This is to ensure you don't bring any evasive flora or critters along with you to Okefenokee's delicate ecosystem. And besides, you feel better when you paddle a clean boat!
2. Have a robust insect repellent plan. Personally, I treat my clothing with Permethrin, bring sprayable DEET, a Thermacell, and a head net. I even treat the head net with Permethrin. Don't take this seriously at your own peril. I do most of my Okefenokee trips in the dead of winter (December through February) and nearly every winter trip, there are mosquitos and other pesky bugs!
3. Bring rope that is not only thick enough to tie your canoe/kayak to the camping platforms, but also to pull your heavy boat with. Some of the trails could have low water (the Green Trail is notoriously low during the winter!); so low that you must get out and drag your boat. It's also a good idea to bring mechanic's style "work" gloves for this. "Muck" boots or tall waterproof hunting boots make this easier as well.
4. Bring a backup paddle. I've snapped two paddles in three decades (never in Okefenokee, thank goodness!) and seen it happen three other times being with others/groups. It is not fun to move your kayak/canoe with half your paddle. Just imagine being 10 miles from the boat ramp, in a loaded boat, in a strange water wilderness, with only half a paddle. I think everyone should carry a backup paddle, but at a minimum, have one for every 3 paddlers in your group. It's not a matter of *if* you'll experience a paddle failure, but *when !!*



5. A wide brim hat and sunscreen are very important. Most of your paddling at Okefenokee has little protection from the sun. Some of the trails are 100% water grasslands/prairies. You won't have any reprieve from the sun on these trails.
6. Bring a footprint or tarp to put under your tent. You'll be erecting your tent on wooden platforms that are uneven, maybe have splinters and are dirty. This will save your tent floor.
7. Non-freestanding tents will not work on the platforms. If you dare bring a non-freestanding tent, you'll have to get very creative in tying off ends that are traditionally staked out.
8. After you erect your tent, always have a good bit of weight in it. Expect high wind gusts on the camping platforms. I once saw a tent launched into the water from the high Big Water platform.
9. Let's talk about drinking and cooking water. First off, filtering/purifying Okefenokee's water is not recommended by the Refuge. This is due to the heavy sediments and high tannic acid. I've tried to filter the water with very high-end backpacking style filters (MSR and Katadyn). Both filters failed in less than 2 liters! Bring more drinking and cooking water than you think you'll need. With that said, always bring an emergency water purification backup plan. For me, that's water purification tablets (my preference is MSR Aquatabs and a couple bandanas). You can drink chemically purified tannic color water in Okefenokee; I've done it twice. It looks gross, but it will get you out of the Refuge without risk of dehydration or sickness.
10. The trickiest part about camping at Okefenokee can often be getting out of your canoe/kayak and up on the platforms; and the same for getting back in your boat. I've seen more than one person tip their boat and go for a swim. Here's a



Best Okefenokee Camping Tips

tip I use on every trip: you know that tie down strap you used to strap your boat to your car rack and drive to Okefenokee? Bring it with you. Most of the platforms have “dock cleats.” Use that tie down strap to wrap it around something in your boat, then to the dock cleat, and then tighten it down so your boat doesn’t move. This works remarkably well. So well, I’ve been able to stand up in my solo canoe and exit the boat. For canoes, wrap the strap around a thwart or yoke. For kayaks, wrap it around the seat support piece that attaches to your kayak. If the platform doesn’t have dock cleats, then wrap the tie down strap around a post or feed it through a gap in between two horizontal boards.

11. I’ve had cell phone service at every campsite except Mixons Hammock (the Stephen C. Foster/Mixons Hammock side of the Refuge is notorious for having no cell coverage). However, cell service can be fickle in Okefenokee. I went on trips in 2023 and 2024 to most of the Refuge and had reliable coverage. But I went back in 2025 and didn’t have cell service at campsites I’ve had for many years. Bottom line: don’t rely on having cell service. If you must communicate with loved ones, a satellite communicator is a great option (and most of them also have a way of triggering an S.O.S. to Search and Rescue in the event of an emergency. E.g.: I use a Garmin InReach).
12. Be extremely careful walking around the wooden camping platforms in the morning. Overnight dew will make them very slippery. The worst is Canal Run, followed by Coffee Bay. Both platforms sit in narrow, shaded sections of the Suwannee Canal (Orange Trail) and it takes a while for the sun to dry them out. And if you’re camping in winter, plan on frost/ice being on the platforms.



- Personal flotation device (PFD) “life jacket”
- Paddle
- Spare paddle
- Dry bags (if it’s not in a dry bag, it will get wet!)
- Signaling device (whistle, mirror, flare)
- Bailer or bilge pump
- Sponge
- Map of Refuge (see pgs. 12, 13)
- Compass
- GPS
- Matches/lighter/fire starter
- Knife or multi-tool
- First aid kit
- Headlamp or flashlight
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Wide brim hat
- Sunglasses with lanyard
- Lip balm
- Water - minimum 1 gallon/person/day
- Backup/emergency water treatment method
- Cook stove and fuel
- Eating utensils
- Food, snacks
- Insect repellent and/or mosquito netting
- Rope for pulling canoe/kayak
- Rain gear
- Season-specific layering clothing
- Tent, tarp, hammock, or bivy sack
- Sleeping bag/quilt
- Sleeping pad
- Pillow
- Duct tape
- Trash bags
- Toilet paper
- Toiletries
- Camera
- This super cool Okefenokee Guidebook!

IMPORTANT

Filtering or purifying
Okefenokee water is
NOT recommended!





Notes

or **fire tinder**

(But only at Canal Run, Mixons Hammock and Floyds Island !!)

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or **fire tinder**

(But only at Canal Run, Mixons Hammock and Floyds Island !!)

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About the Author

Scott Lynch has been exploring the trails and waterways in the Southeast for over 30 years. He has written more than a dozen outdoor guidebooks. He has a diverse background in corporate training, technical writing, was an outfitter, has guided many adventures, is a professional photographer, and he now works in tourism and economic development. He lives in Savannah, GA.



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