







Coldwater River Paddling Trail Guide



The Waterway

Flowing through the Blackwater River State Forest, Coldwater Creek has some of the swiftest water in Florida. The sandy bottom and broad sandbars will remind you of nearby Gulf Coast beaches. A brisk downstream current helps carry you past pristine pine and hardwood forests.

The Paddling Experience

This 19-mile paddling trail is easy enough for beginners and several access sites allow paddlers to choose trips of varying distance. Because it is spring-fed, the shallow water is always pleasantly cool and makes for a perfect paddle for all ages. Flowing for nearly 20 miles through undeveloped land, it is very narrow in spots with a steep gradient. Depending on water levels, sandbars are suitable for camping. Obstructions could include cypress knees, logs, and wide gravel bars that extend into the stream from shorelines. Call a local outfitter listed below to check on water levels and paddling conditions.

Access Points

#1, Start of the trail, State Road 4 Bridge,

This is a remote location and may be unsafe for overnight parking, contact local outfitters for shuttling and safe parking. Access is sandy area under the bridge. From SR 87, go east 5 miles on SR 4 or, from SR 191, go west 5 miles on SR 4 to Coldwater Creek Bridge.

#2, Mile 4, Coldwater Recreation Area



The Coldwater Recreation Area (CRA) is popular with equestrians and offers trails that take horseback riders through some of the most scenic woodlands in Florida. The CRA offers 63 developed campsites and guite a few of them can be accessed from the creek - numbers 7-10 are closest to the beach takeout. The beach area is for campers only. Call 850-957-6161 to reserve a site. From Munson, take CR 191 southwest for 2.75 miles to dirt road on right (west side of Juniper Creek). Turn west for 5 miles to Jernigan Bridge. Or, from Berrydale, take SR 4 east for 2 miles to paved road. Turn south for 4 miles to bridge.



Adventures Unlimited offers a zip line, rents tubes, boats and runs shuttles at this location. The river may become crowded at this point especially during weekends and holidays. Some local historic building were relocated here and are rented out as part of resort facility. On SR 87, look for the "Adventures Unlimited" sign approximately 12 miles north of Milton. Turn right and follow signs



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approximately 4 miles.

#4, Mile 16, Old Steel Bridge,

Access is a sandy launch next to the bridge. Across from the bridge is a private put-in used by Bob's Canoe Livery for paddlers and tubers. From SR 191, take SR 87-A north 2 miles. Turn east and cross Blackwater Heritage Trail; turn north on Whiting Field Circle, then east on Steel Bridge Road which dead ends at the river.

#5, Mile 19, End of the Trail, CR 191 Bridge

On CR 191, 7 mi northeast of Milton

Outfitters and Shuttle Service

Adventures Unlimited (850) 623-6197, (800) 239-6864

Blackwater Canoe Rental and Outpost (850) 623-0235, (800) 967-6789

Bob's Canoe Rental and Sales (850) 623-5457, (800) 492-4504

Base Camp

<u>Blackwater River State Park</u> is a prime destination with shady campsites just a short walk from the river and an excellent base camp for exploring the natural wonders of North Florida. Paddle five nearby <u>designated paddling trails</u>, hike along the <u>Florida National Scenic Trail</u>, visit the <u>Blackwater Heritage State Trail</u>, fish in the sparkling rivers, and bring a camera to capture the natural beauty. Remember to bring binoculars for wildlife viewing, best in early morning or late afternoon.

The <u>Blackwater Heritage State Trail</u> winds through the historic town of Milton and extends eight miles north to join the U.S. Navy's 1.5-mile Military Heritage Trail, which ends at the Naval Air Station Whiting Field. More than nine miles of paved trail offer an enjoyable trip through a quaint North Florida town and out into the countryside where wooden bridges cross several creeks and native wildflowers dot the landscape. Designated as a National Recreation Trail® and part of Florida's State Greenways and Trails System, this paved trail is the perfect venue for biking, running, walking and skating, along with picnicking and birdwatching activities. An unpaved equestrian trail parallels the paved trail. The main trailhead is located near the intersection of State Road 87 and U.S. Highway 90 in Milton. A visitor center, located approximately one mile from the trailhead, offers parking, restrooms, picnic tables, barbeque grills, an amphitheater, and a playground.