How Difficult is Paddling in the Okefenokee?

Consider the skill level of individuals in your party before choosing a trail! The swamp terrain is flat; there is little fast water and dry land is scarce. Your paddle will be used every inch of the way as you wind through cypress forests or cross open prairies exposed to the sun and wind. Paddling can be slow and strenuous on shallow and/or narrow trails. You may have to get out of your canoe and push across peat blowups, shallow water, or trees.

You must plan ahead if you choose a trail that does not return to the same landing. Highway distance between landings:

- Suwannee Canal Recreation Area to Kingfisher Landing: 25 miles
- Suwannee Canal Recreation Area to Stephen C. Foster State Park: 75 miles
- Kingfisher Landing to Stephen C. Foster State Park: 95 miles

What must I bring? What should I bring?

You MUST carry the following items, for your safety:

- Coast Guard approved flotation device (PFD) for each person (children under 13 years of age must wear at all times)
- Compass and map of refuge and trails
- Flashlight
- Cooking stove and fuel if you choose to cook on your trip
- Drinking water (4-6 quarts per person each day, depending on weather). Drinking/swimming swamp water is not recommended.

You SHOULD carry the following items:

- Extra flashlights and batteries
- Trash bags
- Portable toilet with disposable bags
- Bivy for pulling canoe
- First Aid Kit
- Food (pluss enough for one extra day)
- Food/water gear
- Sleeping bag or blanket
- Insect repellent
- Duct tape for emergency repairs
- Spare paddle
- Waterproof bags
- Toilet paper
- Sun protection (sunscreen, wide brim hat, light-colored long-sleeve shirt, and pants)

What if I am a guide or outfitter?

If you charge any fees for trips into the Okefenokee, you are required to have a Commercial Guiding Special Use Permit. Permits are issued once annually, in the fall. For more information, call 912/496 3331. NOTE: Visit the refuge website (Wilderness Canoeing page) for a list of permitted day use and overnight guides.

Do I need a special permit to cross the Suwannee Sill?

You no longer need a permit to cross the Suwannee River Sill. Contact Stephen C. Foster State Park at 912/657 0274 if parking a vehicle parked in their parking lot overnight. All overnight trips MUST park at the Stephen C. Foster State Park, not at the Sill parking area (day-use only).
Okiefenokee National Wildlife Refuge – Wildbirds Cannot Wait

A trip into the Okiefenokee is an experience that you will want to remember for a lifetime. Alligators, crocodiles, and waterbirds – follow their way of life with little interference. Here andigators, great blue herons, red-shouldered hawks, and more! There are also canoes, kayaks, and small boats to rent for visitors who would like to explore a little further.

Day Trips into the Okiefenokee

There are many different ways you can enjoy the nearly 1,000,000 acres of wilderness throughout the Okiefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. Each season in the swamp is varied and offers a unique experience for visitors. Visitors can enjoy the refuge by fishing, canoeing/kayaking, birdwatching, and wildlife observation year-round.

For many visitors, a boat tour offered by Okiefenokee Adventures or Stephen C. Foster State Park is a great way to experience the refuge’s vast Wilderness Area. These tours are offered on flat-bottom boats with motors, giving visitors a glimpse into the refuge’s history as well as observing the current inhabitants of the swamp. All guides are alligators, great blue herons, red-shouldered hawks, and more! There are also canoes, kayaks, and small boats to rent for visitors who would like to explore a little further.

Call Okiefenokee Adventures at 912-496-7756 for tour and rental information. Each season in the swamp is varied and offers a unique experience for visitors. Visitors can enjoy the refuge by fishing, canoeing/kayaking, birdwatching, and wildlife observation year-round.

Wilderness Trail System and day use shelters.

Portable camp stoves are required for cooking in areas

The cancellation policy is as follows:
• If you do not cancel and do not use your reservation, none of the fees will be refunded. Please cancel your reservation if you are unable to use it at this open space for others.

Rules and Regulations

• No changes are allowed. OVERNIGHT trips are only permitted on overnight camping trips. All boats with small motors are permitted on portions of the Okiefenokee Wildlife Trails, absolutely no motors (electric or gas-powered) are authorized on Overnight camping trips.

The Wilderness Camping Permit must be carried by each boat in the party.

Each party must sign-in/out when entering and leaving the concession area. A sign in logbook either located at the boat ramp or the concession area must be signed.

Each camping unit, including a canoe, kayak, or small boat with motor less than 10 HP, is considered one camping unit. Each camping unit authorized on overnights.

Permit.