Access Point 1: CR 2 Bridge
N: 30.9253  W: -86.5591
Access Point 6: SR 87 Bridge
N: 30.5713  W: -86.9244

Yellow River Paddling Trail Map 5

Yellow River Water Management Area

Canoe/Kayak Launch

Florida Conservation Lands

Wetlands
Yellow River Paddling Trail Trip Planning

Overview: Located in the western Panhandle, the upper Yellow River is unique in that it drains the state’s highest elevation. As a result, the current is faster and there are numerous high banks. Hardwood forests and high sandy banks frame the waterway. Farther downstream, the river deepens and slows as it passes through cypress and gum swamps. Water levels can fluctuate dramatically in a short period of time.

Counties: Santa Rosa, Okaloosa
Nearest towns: Crestview, Milton, Milligan

Trip length: 54 Miles

Mileage: 1. Mile 0—CR 2 Bridge
2. Mile 18—Milligan Park
3. Mile 35—Rivers Edge RV Park
4. Mile 37—Guest Lake Ramp
5. Mile 44.5—Log Lake Ramp
6. Mile 54—SR 87 Bridge

*The provided mileage data is approximate (rounded to the nearest 0.5 mile).

Difficulty: Easy to Difficult (depending on water levels)

Skill level: Beginner to Advanced (depending on water levels)

Note: The section of the Yellow River between SR 2 and US 90 seems to be the most appropriate section for paddlers. Public access points below US 90 and the Ellis Road boat ramp are limited and paddlers are much more likely to encounter powerboat traffic.

Access Points

Access Point 1 Put-in: CR 2 Bridge (Oak Grove)
Nearest town to put-in:  Crestview  
Miles from access:  23.7

Directions to access point:  From Crestview, take US 90 west 4.5 miles across the Yellow River to Milligan. Go right (north) 3.7 miles on SR 4 and merge with SR 189. Continue straight (north) on SR 189 10.5 miles to CR 2. Take CR 2 right (east) 5 miles to the bridge over the Yellow River.

**Access Point 2 Put-in:** Milligan Park

Nearest town to put-in:  Crestview  
Miles from access:  4.5

Directions to access point:  From Crestview, take US 90 west 4.0 miles across the Yellow River to Milligan. Take the first clay road on the left past the bridge (Ellis Road). A small boat ramp sign on US 90 may be seen pointing towards Ellis Road. Follow the clay road curving left near the railroad tracks to a small park with a picnic table, boat ramp and a small sandy beach.

**Access Point 3 Put-in:** Rivers Edge RV Park

Nearest town to put-in:  Crestview  
Miles from access:  15

Directions to access point:  From Crestview, take US 90 west 12 miles (or west on I-10 and take Exit 45). Turn south onto Log Lake Road and follow pavement 2.5 miles to RV Park on left. Enter park and drive to ramp area. Pay fee and enter gate for ramp.

**Access Point 4 Put-in:** Guest Lake Ramp

Nearest town to put-in:  Crestview  
Miles from access:  16

Directions to access point:  From Crestview, take US 90 west 12 miles (or west on I-10 and take Exit 45). Turn south onto Log Lake Road and follow pavement 2.5 miles until it ends at RV park on left. Continue following unpaved portion of road another 1.3 miles until it ends at Guest Lake ramp.

**Access Point 5 Put-in:** Log Lake Ramp
Nearest town to put-in: Milton  Miles from access: 13

Directions to access point: Travel east on US 90 for 10 miles and turn right onto Miller Bluff Road (paved). Follow south 2.6 miles and turn left at Fisher Old Mill Road (turns into hard-packed unpaved road). Follow 1.2 miles and turn right onto Log Lake Road. Follow .5 mile to ramp on right. The ramp is on a side stream about .8 mile from the main channel.

Access Point 6 Take-out: SR 87 Bridge

Nearest town to put-in: Milton  Miles from access: 9.5

Directions to access point: From Milton, take US 90 east 4.5 miles to SR 87. Follow SR 87 south 5 miles to the bridge.


Gazetteer page: 27, 28

Outfitters within 20 miles of trail

Blackwater Canoe Rental, 1-800-967-6789

Shuttle service offered: See outfitters.

USGS link (water level info):

http://waterdata.usgs.gov/usa/nwis/uv?site_no=02368000

Break / Lunch areas: The upper section of the river between SR 2 and US 90 has a number of large sandbars that may be accessible depending on water levels. Below US 90, there are few places to get out of the boat.

Camping options: Depending on water levels, a number of significant sandbars are located between SR 2 and US 90. Camping is allowed on the
Yellow River Wildlife Management Area. Pay attention to posted boundaries to avoid camping on private land:

RV and tent camping is also available at the Rivers Edge RV Park near Holt (access point #3); (850) 537-2267.

Other lodging: Hotels available nearby in Crestview or Milton.

Food/Beverage restrictions: None

What to expect on the river:

Tidal influence: None

Pull-overs: Possible, depending on low water levels.

Low branches: Possible, depending on water levels.

Narrow water: None

Shallow water: Possible, depending on water levels.

Strong currents: Possible, depending on water levels.

Rocks: None

Houses: Very few.

Shoals: None

Tight turns: Possible, depending on water levels.

Open water: None

Springs: None

Potable water sources: None
**Wildlife:** Song birds, alligators, turtles, a variety of fish. Access the [Yellow River Wildlife Management Area](#) site for more detailed information of species observed along the river:

**Natural communities:** Slope forests, floodplain forests, mixed hardwood hammock, riverine swamp, sandhill.

**Portages:** None

**Swimming:** At your own risk

**Motorboats:** Small motorboats are likely downstream of the US-90 Bridge.

**Expect at parking:** CR 2 Bridge (Oak Grove)
- Parking fee: None
- Bathrooms: None
- Hours of operation (gates close): Daylight hours
- Camping: None
- Camping fees: N/A
- Crowds: Not likely
- Boat Ramp: Yes - unimproved
- Potable water source: None
- Canoe/kayak launch: Yes – unimproved boat ramp.

**Expect at parking:** Milligan Park
- Parking fee: None
- Bathrooms: None
- Hours of operation (gates close): Daylight hours
- Camping: None
- Camping fees: N/A
- Crowds: Possible
- Boat Ramp: Yes - unimproved
- Potable water source: None
- Canoe/kayak launch: Boat ramp and small sandy beach.

**Expect at parking:** Rivers Edge RV Park
- **Parking fee:** Yes (parking is likely more secure than more remote ramps)
- **Bathrooms:** Yes
- **Hours of operation (gates close):** Daylight hours except for registered campers
- **Camping:** Yes,
- **Camping fees:** Yes
- **Crowds:** unlikely
- **Boat Ramp:** Yes, concrete
- **Potable water source:** Yes
- **Canoe/kayak launch:** use ramp or sandy areas alongside ramp

**Expect at parking:** Guest Lake Ramp
- **Parking fee:** None
- **Bathrooms:** None
- **Hours of operation (gates close):** Daylight hours
- **Camping:** Yes, primitive camping
- **Camping fees:** none
- **Crowds:** unlikely
- **Boat Ramp:** Yes, concrete
- **Potable water source:** None
- **Canoe/kayak launch:** use ramp or sandy areas alongside ramp

**Expect at parking:** Log Lake Ramp
- **Parking fee:** None
- **Bathrooms:** None
- **Hours of operation (gates close):** Daylight hours
- **Camping:** Yes, primitive camping
- **Camping fees:** none
- **Crowds:** unlikely
- **Boat Ramp:** Yes, concrete
- **Potable water source:** None
- **Canoe/kayak launch:** use ramp or sandy areas alongside ramp

**Expect at parking:** SR 87 Bridge
- **Parking fee:** None
- **Bathrooms:** None
- **Hours of operation (gates close):** None
- **Camping:** None
- **Camping fees:** N/A
- **Crowds:** None
- **Boat Ramp:** Unimproved – possibly difficult to access.
- **Potable water source:** None
- **Canoe/kayak launch:** Boat ramp.

**Cultural and historical features along the trail:** The remains of an old bridge can be seen between US 90 and SR 87.

**Notes:** Water levels on the Yellow River fluctuate wildly and rapidly. When the river is running high, tight turns, submerged objects and overhanging branches can make paddling difficult or dangerous. This is true for sections both above and below US 90. Water levels around 1.0 – 2.0 feet at SR 2 make for a pleasant paddle in the upper section.

River access to and from the Guest Lake boat ramp can be difficult and it can be difficult to identify the location of the creek leading up to Guest Lake from the main river channel. See map for GPS coordinates to this entrance along with the northern entrance to Stick Creek, which leads to the Log Lake Boat Ramp.

The access point at SR 87 is primitive and remote. The security of vehicles left at this access point is questionable. The most secure parking on the river is likely at the Rivers Edge RV Park (#3).

The end of the river is on the northern boundary of the Eglin Air Force Base Reservation. Below US 90, much of the land on the south side of the river is part of Eglin Air Force Base. Eglin AFB maintains several primitive launches and recreation areas along the river that are open to the public (with permit). Obtain a base recreation permit if you plan to enter the reservation (this includes stopping for lunch). Information about permits and Eglin area maps can be obtained by calling (850) 882-4164 or writing Eglin Natural Resources, 107 Highway 85, Niceville, FL 32578. Online resources includes a guide to Yellow River and Eglin access points.