

Wilderness Canoeing  
in  
Okefenokee

20¢



National Wildlife Refuge

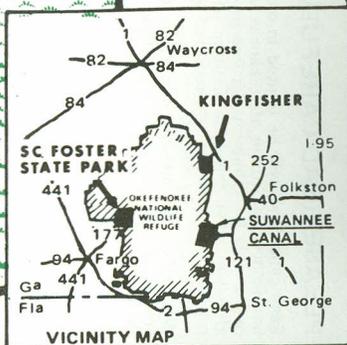
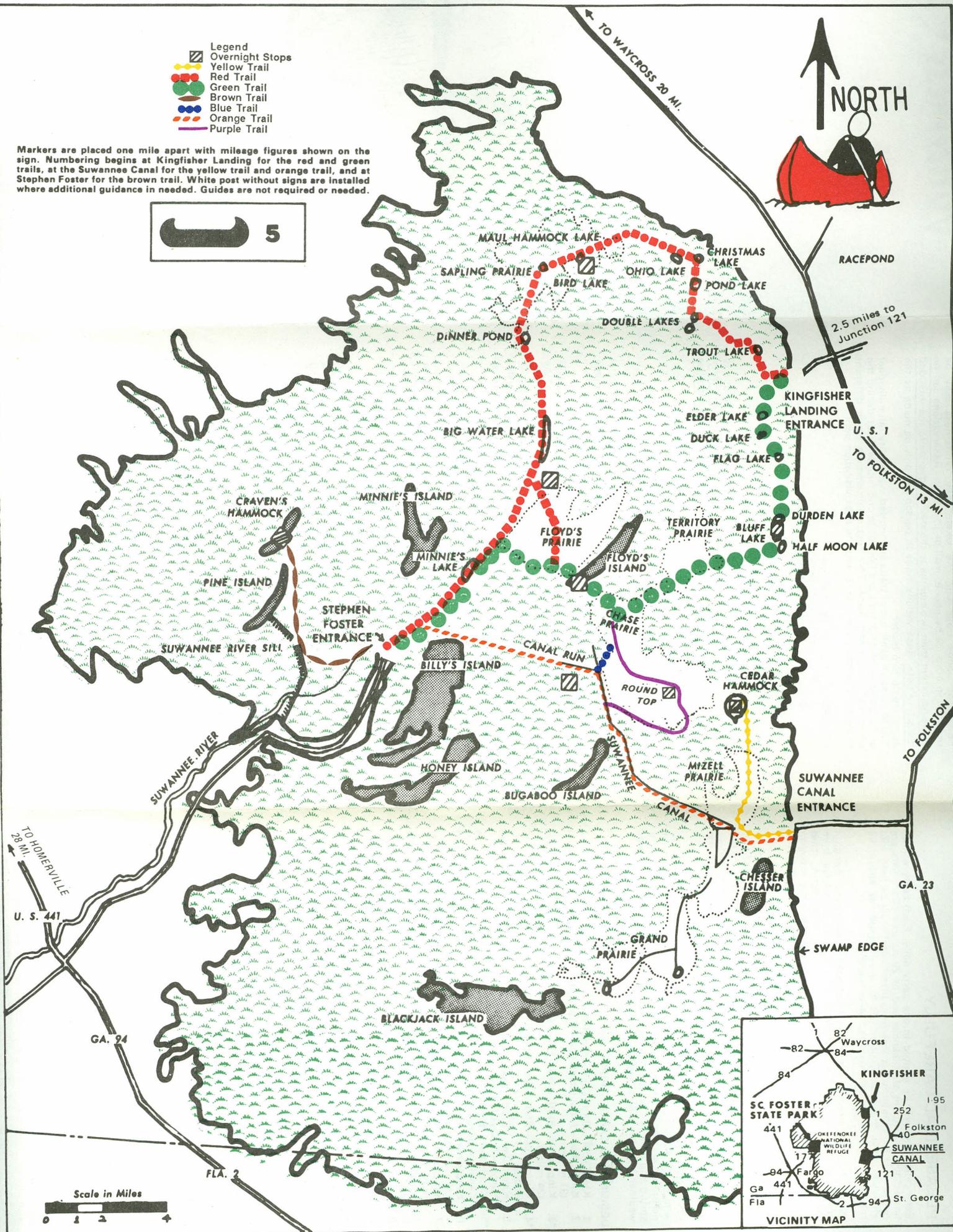


# Okefenokee Canoeing Trails



- Legend**
- Overnight Stops
  - Yellow Trail
  - Red Trail
  - Green Trail
  - Brown Trail
  - Blue Trail
  - Orange Trail
  - Purple Trail

Markers are placed one mile apart with mileage figures shown on the sign. Numbering begins at Kingfisher Landing for the red and green trails, at the Suwannee Canal for the yellow trail and orange trail, and at Stephen Foster for the brown trail. White post without signs are installed where additional guidance is needed. Guides are not required or needed.



## PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Each canoe trail will be limited to one party daily. Each party will be limited to a maximum of 10 canoes and/or 20 persons. Canoeists are responsible for keeping trails free from litter. Litter must be held until after you leave the swamp; litter left by previous parties should be retrieved. Motors are not permitted on canoe trips.

**WILDLIFE:** Wildlife abound in the Okefenokee year-round. Sandhill cranes, ducks and other migratory birds are most numerous from November through March. Otter are commonly seen during cold weather when alligators are relatively inactive. Alligators are active in the summer and are observed sunning on banks mostly during spring and fall.

In general, mosquitoes are no problem except after dark from April through October. They are rarely encountered during the daytime. Deerflies, although a biting menace at times during the summer, are not as bad deep in the swamp. There is no need to fear snakes or alligators as long as normal precautions are taken and animals or nests are not molested.

**FISHING:** Sport fishing is permitted during posted hours in accordance with Georgia State Law and refuge regulations. Live minnows are not permitted as bait in Okefenokee waters. Bass fishing is best in early spring and late fall, but a lot depends upon water levels, moon phase, weather, and the skill of the fisherman.

### DESIGNATED CANOE TRIPS:

1. Kingfisher—Bluff Lake—Kingfisher—2 days (16 miles).
2. Kingfisher—Maul Hammock—Big Water—Stephen Foster—3 days (31 miles).
- \*3. Kingfisher—Bluff Lake—Floyd's Island—Stephen Foster—3 days (24 miles).
- \*4. Kingfisher—Bluff Lake—Round Top—Suwannee Canal—3 days (30 miles).
5. Kingfisher—Bluff Lake—Floyd's Island—Canal Run—Stephen Foster—4 days (29 miles).
- \*5a. Kingfisher—Bluff Lake—Floyd's Island—Canal Run—Suwannee Canal—4 days (31 miles).
6. Kingfisher—Maul Hammock—Big Water—Floyd's Island—Bluff Lake—Kingfisher—5 days (43 miles).
7. Kingfisher—Maul Hammock—Big Water—Floyd's Island—Canal Run—Stephen Foster—5 days (38 miles).
- 7a. Kingfisher—Maul Hammock—Big Water—Floyd's Island—Canal Run—Suwannee Canal—5 days (41 miles).
8. Kingfisher—Bluff Lake—Round Top—Canal Run—Stephen Foster—4 days (31 miles).
9. Suwannee Canal—Cedar Hammock—Suwannee Canal—2 days (16 miles).
- \*10. Suwannee Canal—Canal Run—Stephen Foster—2 days (17 miles).
- 10a. Suwannee Canal—Canal Run—Suwannee Canal—2 days (20 miles).
- \*11. Suwannee Canal—Round Top—Floyd's Island—Stephen Foster—3 days (24 miles).
- 11a. Suwannee Canal—Round Top—Floyd's Island—Suwannee Canal—3 days (32 miles).
- \*12. Suwannee Canal—Round Top—Floyd's Island—Bluff Lake—Kingfisher Landing—4 days (33 miles).
13. Stephen Foster—Canal Run—Stephen Foster—2 days (14 miles).
14. Stephen Foster—Craven's Hammock—Stephen Foster—2 days (18 miles).
15. Stephen Foster—Floyd's Island—Canal Run—Stephen Foster—3 days (20 miles).

**NOTE:** Short portage across Floyd's Island required on all trips crossing this island.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Boat launching fees are required at Stephen Foster State Park and at Suwannee Canal Recreation Area.

\*Starting point and destination may be reversed, but only by permit. Mileages shown are total for each trip.

**COMMERCIAL USERS AND OUTFITTERS:** Any organization or group regardless of its status as "profit" or "non-profit" which collects fees/charges for any service in excess of the normal costs for food, transportation, equipment rental and canoe reservations must obtain a special use permit and pay a \$50.00 administrative fee. This permit is valid during the period October through September 30 and allows the permittee to compete with the general public for canoe trail reservations. These permits are available by written or phone request at the address and phone number listed for reservations.

**PERMITS:** Canoe trails into the Okefenokee Wilderness may be reserved in advance by phone, mail or in person. Reservations can be made no earlier than two months to the day in advance to the intended departure date. Reservations made in person can only be made by the authorized group leader.

Due to seasonal peak, use of trails and limited availability, all individual and organizations or groups are limited to one trip per year during the months of March and April. This restriction permits many different individuals to enjoy the area during the peak visitation period.

**RESERVATIONS:** Write or phone  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge  
Route 2, Box 338  
Folkston, Georgia 31537  
Telephone (912) 496-3331

Office hours are Monday - Friday, 7:00 a.m. til 3:30 p.m.

**USER FEES:** A non-refundable fee of \$3.00 per person per night is charged for each member of a canoe party. The following information must be submitted no later than 15 days prior to date of trip; otherwise the reservation will be cancelled:

1. Date trip is planned.
2. Choice of trails.
3. Expected number in party (maximum 20 people—10 canoes).
4. Name, address, and phone number of group leader.
5. Names and addresses for all participants.
6. Cashiers check, certified check, or money order (no personal checks) totaling \$3.00 per person per night for the entire trip made payable to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**PHYSICAL CONDITIONS:** The swamp terrain is flat; there is no fast water and very little dry land. 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. You may have to get out of your canoe and push across peat blowups or shallow water. Water levels in the Okefenokee Swamp sometimes become too low to permit use of certain trails; when this occurs, parties holding reservations will be notified.

**WEATHER:** June, July, August, September are hot and humid with temperatures ranging above 90°. Winter days range from below 40° to 80°, but much of the time temperatures are in the fifties and sixties. Summer nights are warm, and winter nighttime temperatures can be near or below freezing. Record lows have dipped to 4°, with wind chills of -22°. The rainy season is normally from June through September. Many summer afternoons are drenched with localized thundershowers. Lightening is probably the most dangerous feature of an Okefenokee experience.

**SAFETY:** Each traveler is required by law to have a Coast Guard approved life preserver in his possession. Each canoe must contain a compass and a flashlight. Each canoeist must register when entering and leaving the swamp. Due to danger from alligators, pets may not be taken into the swamp. For the same reason, swimming is not permitted. Minimum party size is two persons. Parties will not be permitted to launch later than 10:00 a.m. to insure that the overnight stop is reached before dark.

**CAMPING:** Overnight camping is permitted only at designated overnight stops. You must remain at the designated overnight area between sunset and sunrise. You may camp only one night per rest stop. Since firm land is not available at all overnight stops, a 20' x 28' wooden platform is provided. Pop tents are recommended. No nails should be used and no trees or limbs should be cut. Open fires are not permitted except at specified areas, so gasoline, bottle gas or similar types of stoves will be required if you plan to cook meals. Portable toilets with disposable bags are required even though most overnight camp sites are outfitted with chemical toilets. Canoe parties must adhere exactly to the scheduled trail and assigned overnight stops.

**SUGGESTED SUPPLIES:** 1) Rope for pulling canoe; 2) Drinking water; 3) Insect repellent; 4) Mosquito netting; 5) Rain gear; 6) First aid kit; 7) Extra batteries; 8) Litter bags; 9) Pop tent and/or jungle hammock and sleeping bag.

Canoes, other camping equipment, and services are available for rent from the concessioner, Suwannee Canal Recreation Area, Folkston, Georgia, Phone (912) 496-7156 and Stephen C. Foster State Park, Fargo, Georgia, Phone (912) 637-5274.