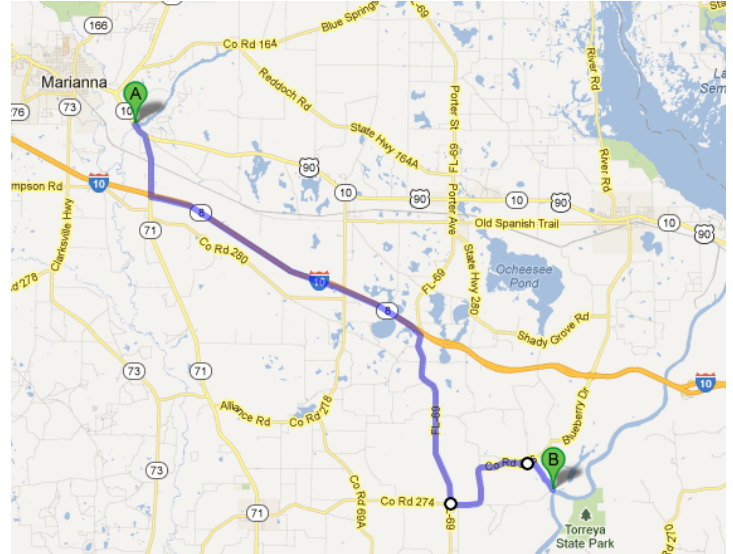


APALACHICOLA RIVER

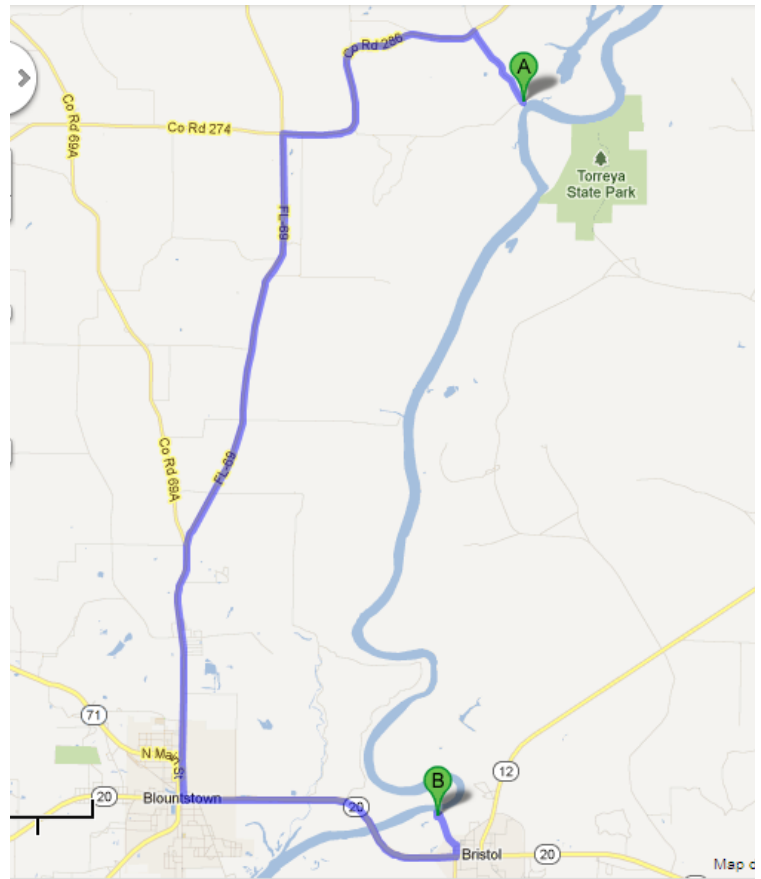
- **How to Get There**
- **The Shuttle Route**
- **How to Get Back to the Campground**

The Apalachicola River has a long history of steamboat traffic and cargo barges. The Army Corps of Engineers waged a long campaign to try to shape and tame the river, and finally quit in the 1990s. As you paddle downriver, you can see stone groins, sandbanks and pilings that were used to try to shape the river.



From the Campground: There are no bathrooms at the put-in, so be prepared. We'll head east to SR 71, hang a right down to I-10, and then head east to the exit at SR 69. We'll go south to the 4-way crossing at County Road 286, and hang a left, and head for the Ocheesee landing. This is a popular anchor spot for a variety of houseboats and for weekend campers.

Shuttle: The end of the trip is a riverside park in Bristol. Shuttle drivers backtrack out to the 4-way intersection at SR 69, turn left and head south into Blountstown. At the main street of Blountstown, SR 20, we turn left and cross the Apalachicola River bridge. At the second left turn in Bristol, North Central Street, turn left and go to the park at the end. There are restrooms and plenty of parking.



On the River: People waiting at the put-in can explore upriver a bit. The current seems slow, but can be powerful – especially if water is being released from the dam at Lake Seminole. As we head downriver we may encounter motorboats. Fortunately, most boaters are nice enough to slow as they pass. The stone groins have created plenty of sheltered areas for rest stops and picnic areas. The water can be surprisingly clear for a large river. You might hear a huge *Splash!* of a Gulf Sturgeon leaping! Sorry, caviar fans, the sturgeon are protected. The river is remarkably straight until we get near Bristol, when it begins several big sweeping turns. There are occasional houseboats along this area, too. As we approach Bristol, we will see the Alum Bluffs conservation area on the left, with high clay banks and walking trails on the top, and you may hear traffic going across the highway bridge at Bristol. The takeout will be on the left, sheltered by concrete breakwaters.

Going Home: From the park at Bristol, go straight out, hang a right across the bridge, and turn right in Blountstown on SR 71, North Main Street. This will take you back to Marianna. Check out the exhibited steam locomotive of the old Marianna & Blountstown Railroad across from the Auto Zone store.

But, the shuttle drivers going to fetch the shuttle vehicle at Ocheesee Landing have to take a quick right onto SR 69, which branches off of SR 71. Three miles later, veer to the right to stay on SR 69. And 6 miles after that, you'll be back at the 4-way intersection of County Road 286. Turn right to get the shuttle car at Ocheesee Landing. From there, backtrack back to SR 69, up to I-10, and head west to Marianna.



Emergency Information / Local Information

Both Calhoun County and Jackson County has 9-1-1 service, and for our Smartphone users, the Jackson County 9-1-1 office also has an e-mail link, jce911@jacksoncountyfl.com

If you need gas on the way back there are gas stations in Blountstown and Bristol, and restaurants in Blountstown.

When you get up SR 71 to US 90, turn left to get back to Arrowhead Campground.