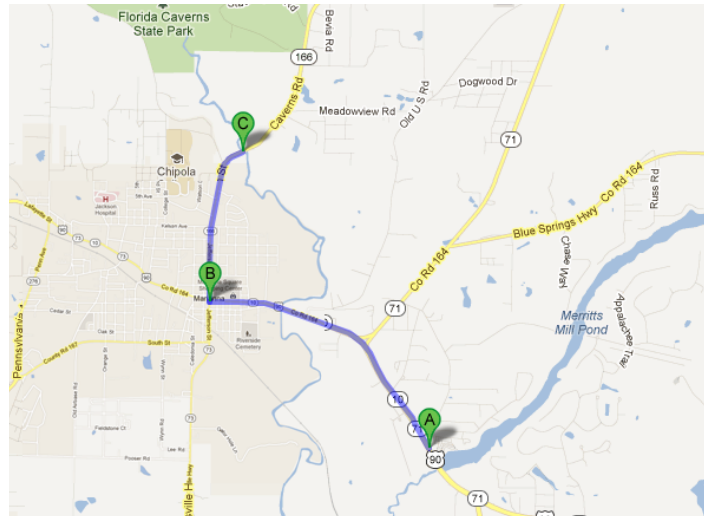


Boat ramp at county park at the midpoint of the Upper Chipola

UPPER CHIPOLA RIVER

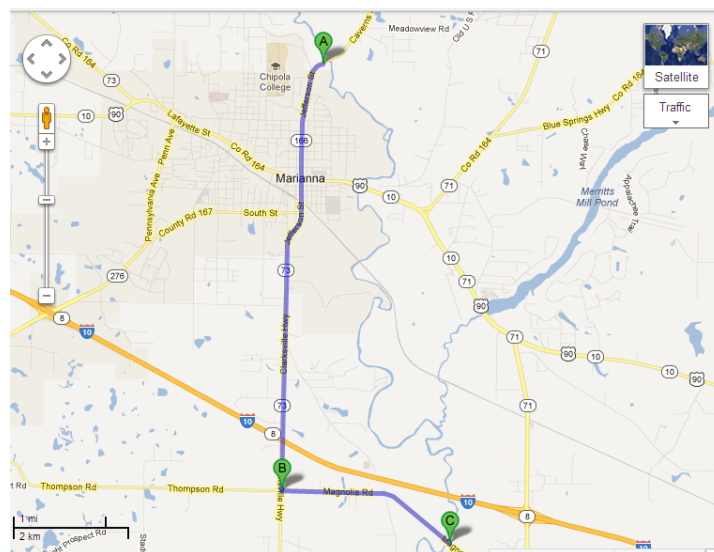
- **How to Get There**
- **The Shuttle Route**
- **How to Get Back to the Campground**

The uppermost part of the Chipola River we will be doing during the Rendezvous is sometimes called the Yancey Bridge trip, because of where it starts, and sometimes called the caves part, because of limestone caves along the way.

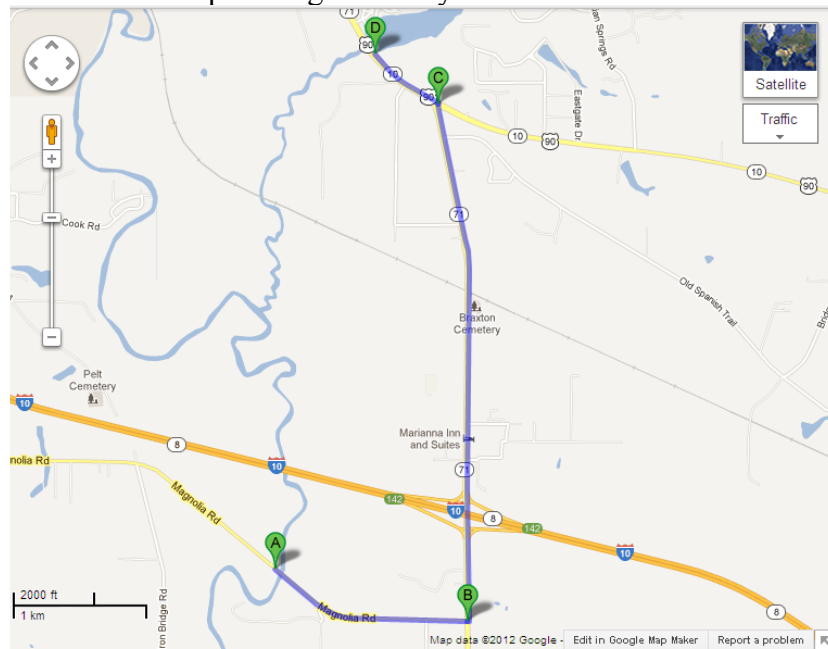


From the Campground: There are no bathrooms at the put-in, so be prepared. Head west through Marianna on US 90 to the center of town, and turn right on County Road 166 (Jefferson Street). Go north about 1.4 miles. Turn left into the county boat ramp area just before the bridge over the Chipola.

Shuttle: Shuttle Drivers go out to the Highway, turn right, and head back into the center of town. At the center of town, continue straight down Jefferson Street, and it becomes SR 73. After a total of 4.7 miles and passing under I-10, turn left on Magnolia Road. The take-out is a county boat ramp about 2 miles from that left turn. Turn right, go down the hill, and find a spot by the bridge or in the shade. Then we shuttle back to the Put-In.



On the River: People waiting at the put-in can explore upriver a bit. The current is often brisk here because of the downhill grade. We will start in a wooded area, heading into town. We pass under the US 90 bridge, and past brick pillars of a long-gone bridge. One of them has been used as a support for a river house! We also pass buildings on the right that once housed polluting until they were shut down.



The right winds to the right and passes some small hills on the left. Soon it passes under the CSX trestle and parallels the railroad track for about a half-mile. The banks here are high and steep. On the left are the limestone caves. At low water, some people have explored a few feet into the caves. But just remember to be careful of banging your head against the rock ceilings. If the water is high, the caves are only faintly visible as cracks in the hillside.

Around the next bend is a new county park, with a boat ramp cut down to the river level. The ramp is steep and can be crowded when a bunch of boats pull in, but at the top of the ramp is a set of picnic tables in the shade.

Along the way we will pass a spring run on the left, with fast, cold water flowing from a deep blue vent. We often paddle up this run for a quick break. And farther downriver we will pass where Spring Creek, starting near Arrowhead Campground, empties into the Chipola River.

Soon you hear traffic, and we pass under the I-10 bridge. In another half-mile we will see riverbank houses on the right, then pass a tube rental place, then pass under the Magnolia Road Bridge. Take out is on the right, just after the bridge!

Going Home: We usually turn right out of the lot so we can go down to SR 71, turn left, and stop at a store on the back. Once you're on SR 71, go straight up the road to US 90, turn left, and go to the campground at Merritt's Millpond.

Emergency Information / Local Information

Jackson County has 9-1-1 service, and the 9-1-1 office also has an e-mail link, jce911@jacksoncountyfl.com

If you need gas on the way back, or want to head to one of the hotels off of I-10, take SR 73 north to the crossroads, turn right on Magnolia Road, take that past the Chipola River bridge, and you will come out to SR 71. Turn left, and there will be an assortment of gas stations, restaurants and motels on the way back to US 90.

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