

## High Water Paddling on the Apalachicola Blueway

When seeking to do overnight trips on the Apalachicola Blueway during high water periods, typically in later winter and early spring or after tropical storms or hurricanes, it is important to note that paddling during flood stage is not recommended for safety reasons. The current is swift with numerous eddies, and objects such as large logs can be swirling in the current. But when the river is not in flood stage but higher than 45 feet at the [USGS Chattahoochee gauge](#) or 8 feet at the [USGS Blountstown gauge](#), experienced paddlers might want to paddle the river. The main challenge is that most of the sandbars that make for ideal camping and rest stops are likely under water. This being the case, camping is allowed at certain boat landings and access points along the river. They include:

- **Ocheese Landing** at river mile 94 (primitive camping, no restrooms or water). No charge.
- **Redd's Landing** at river mile 89 (primitive camping, no restrooms or water). No charge.
- **Estiffanulga County Park** at river mile 63 (primitive camping but there are restrooms and water). No charge.
- **Iola Landing** at river mile 45 (primitive camping, no restrooms or water). If camping here, check in first with Gulf County Parks and Recreation, Billy Traylor, 850-227-5602). No charge.
- **Hickory Landing Campground** on Owl Creek near river mile 22 (pit toilets, water and picnic tables). Small fee. No reservations.
- **Bloody Bluff Landing** at river mile 15 (primitive camping, no restrooms or water). No charge but [reservations required](#). There is also a high sandbar at river mile 14 (west side of river) that is above most high water levels.

Refer to the [Apalachicola Blueway Guide](#) for map locations and GPS coordinates for these locations.