









Steinhatchee River Paddling Trail

-  Steinhatchee River Paddling Trail
-  Canoe/Kayak Launch
-  Picnic Tables
-  Restrooms
-  Potable Water
-  Springs
-  Wetlands
-  Conservation Lands



Access Point 1: Steinhatchee Falls
N: 29.746091° W: -83.342394°

Access Point 2: Steinhatchee Boat Ramp
N: 29.671446° W: -83.390458°

Access Point 3: Jena Boat Ramp
N: 29.670138° W: -83.389097°

Tennille

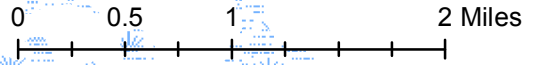
Steinhatchee Springs Tract

Steinhatchee Falls Tract

Steinhatchee Rise Tract

Steinhatchee

Jena



CR 361

SR 51

15TH ST E

STEINHATCHEE FALLS RD.

STEINHATCHEE TRAIL RD.

98

19

27

1ST AVE S

RIVERSIDE DR

SW 358 HWY

SW 820 ST

SW 320 AVE

SW 358 HWY

Steinhatchee River Trip Planning

Overview: The Steinhatchee River is a serene blackwater river forming the boundary between Dixie and Taylor Counties, entering the Gulf of Mexico along the Big Bend coastline between the small towns of Jena and Steinhatchee. It begins as a shady meandering waterway just below a limestone ledge that creates the picturesque and historic Steinhatchee Falls. The upper stretches of the river are pristine and remote with no houses visible the first mile or so. The river continues to widen as it nears the Gulf, a distance of 6-7 miles depending on where paddlers choose to take out. The Steinhatchee River is appropriate for beginning paddlers and canoes although windy conditions and tidal effects may be encountered near the mouth of the Gulf.

Be sure to bring along camera and binoculars to enjoy the abundant wildlife at a distance. And grab a pole to try your luck fishing for both freshwater and saltwater species. There are several excellent restaurants and a multitude of lodging options accessible on both sides of the river as it nears the Gulf.

Counties: Taylor, Dixie

Nearest Towns: Steinhatchee, Jena

Trip length: 6-7 miles

Mileage:

1. Mile 0—Steinhatchee Falls
2. Mile 6—Steinhatchee Boat Landing
3. Mile 7—Jena Boat Ramp

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

Difficulty: Easy – moderate depending on water levels, wind and tidal conditions

Skill level: Beginner to intermediate

Access Points:

Access Point 1 Put-in: Steinhatchee Falls: N: 29.746091 W: -83.342394 (decimal-degrees)

Directions: From US 98 turn west onto SR 51. Less than one mile on the left will be a sign for public access. Turn left onto the dirt road then turn right at the first intersection and follow the signs. The launch is at a small park with picnic pavilions and a portable restroom. The gate is open between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. No fees are required. The launch is suitable for small boats that can be launched by hand and canoes/kayaks. There is also a 3-mile multi-use loop trail that starts at the Falls and goes north through the woods and ends at the Tennille Trailhead on SR 51. Steinhatchee is the nearest town, 6 miles away.

Access Point 2 Take-out: Steinhatchee Boat Landing: N: 29.671446 W: -83.39045°

Directions: From Steinhatchee Falls travel back to SR 51 and turn left (south). Drive into Steinhatchee and turn right (west) on 1st Avenue. Continue until road ends at a 'T', veer to the right and proceed a short distance to boat landing on the left. The launch has multiple concrete lanes, some fixed and floating docks, and can be busy on weekends and during

scallop season. There is a launch fee with ample parking and portable restrooms. No overnight parking is allowed

Access Point 3 Take-out: Jena Boat Ramp: N: 29.670138 W: -83.389097

Directions: From Steinhatchee Falls travel back to SR 51 and turn left (south). Travel into Steinhatchee and turn right (west) on 1st Avenue. Turn left on 10th Ave and drive over the bridge crossing the river into the small town known as Jena. At the road junction turn right and head to public ramp at the end of the road. The launch is 2- lane concrete with no fees and accessible 24/7, limited parking during weekends and scallop season. No restrooms.

There is also a small hand launch next to the Good Times Marina on the south side of the river.

Gazeteer Page: 62

Outfitters & Shuttle Service:

[River Haven Marina](#)

[Steinhatchee Landing](#)

[Suwannee Guides](#)

Water level info: Avoid paddling when the river nears flood stage as conditions are hazardous.

www.mysuwanneeriver.com/30DayRiverLevels/30DayRiverLevels.aspx?statid=104

Break/lunch areas: Picnic pavilions and portable restrooms at Steinhatchee Falls

Camping options: Camping is not allowed along the river but is available in the area at private campsites: www.steinhatcheeriverchamber.org/

Lodging options: www.steinhatcheeriverchamber.org
www.naturalnorthflorida.com/dixie-county-florida/lodging

Food/Beverage restrictions: none

Expect on the River:

Tidal influence: Time a trip with an outgoing tide for easiest paddling.

Pull-overs: None

Low branches: Possible on upper, narrower stretch

Shallow water: no

Strong currents: Currents depend on water levels and tidal influence, outgoing tide will increase the speed of current going downstream and incoming tide will do the opposite

Rocks: none

Houses: Houses begin about a mile and a half below the falls and continue to the Gulf

Shoals: Put in below the Steinhatchee Falls to avoid rocks

Open water: The river widens as it nears the Gulf and winds, currents, and tides will affect the experience.

Springs: small springs along the course of the river

Potable water sources: none

Wildlife: In the upper stretches of the river wildlife species include gopher tortoise, otter, wading birds, wild hog, swallow-tailed kite, Swainson's warbler, deer, turkey, and squirrel. Marine species of fish and wildlife appear as the river nears the Gulf. Spring and fall migration of diverse bird and butterfly species is spectacular along this coastline

Natural communities: floodplain swamp, bottom land forest, and mixed hardwood forest, give way to maritime hammock and salt marsh as the river nears the Gulf

Portages: none

Motorboats: Boat traffic increases as the river widens, the boat launches can be busy on weekends

Cultural and historical features along the trail: *(From the Florida Dept of State, Division of Historical Resources website)*

Located at the mouth of the Steinhatchee River, Deadman Bay was on Spanish maps by the early 1500s. Spanish Conquistador Panfilo de Narvaez came through the area in 1529 followed by Hernando de Soto ten years later. DeSoto crossed the Steinhatchee River at the "Falls" which also served as a crossing point for native Americans and settlers in the 1800's. In 1818 General Andrew Jackson (1767-1845) also crossed at the Falls on his way to dispatch the Seminoles who were raiding "white" settlements. In 1838 General Zachary Taylor (1784 -1850) was sent to put down the Seminoles during the Second Seminole War. Fort Frank Brook was established up the Steinhatchee River in the same year and abandoned in 1840. In 1879 James Howard Stephens (1825-1906), a local pioneer, offered land for a post office changing the name from Deadman Bay to Stephenville. In 1931 the community was renamed Steinhatchee after the river. The name Steinhatchee was derived from the Native American "esteen hatchee" meaning river (hatchee) of man (esteen). Steinhatchee's long history of human habitation includes prehistoric man dating from 12,000 BC, pirates from 15th through 18th centuries, loggers in the 1800s, and sponge divers in the 1940s and 50s. Today commercial fishermen, shrimpers, and crabbers continue to make a living along the Gulf.

Canoes and flat boats were the first means of transportation across the river. A ferry was used up until 1948 when a one lane swing bridge that had been removed from Scott's Ferry, near Blountstown, was installed. This bridge served until 1983 when the present concrete bridge was constructed. Electricity came to Steinhatchee in 1945 and telephone service was established in 1948

The towns at the entrance of the Steinhatchee River are an important stop on the [Big Bend Saltwater Paddling Trail](#) and the 1,500-mile [Circumnavigation Trail](#) that embraces the coastline of Florida.