

Paddling Route Two: Palatka-Rollestown Loop

Put In and take out: Lat/Long 29° 38.799'N 81° 37.676'W . Kayak Launch at Palatka Riverfront Park Southwest corner of Memorial Bridge

Distance: 6-8 miles

Difficulty: Intermediate

Estimated Time: 3 hours

Description: This is an open water paddle with two River crossings and is best done under calm wind conditions (under 12 knots). Two Bartram Trail Sites (BTS) are included in this 6 to 8 mile loop.

Launch at the Palatka Riverfront Park soft landing at the foot of the Memorial Bridge (BTS 4). Paddle east parallel to the Memorial Bridge heading towards the causeway on the east side of the River. Watch for boat traffic during the entire River crossing as small motor boats often pass under the bridge several spans either side of the main channel passage.

Once across the River, head southeast to round Harts Point. Paddle along the east shoreline as it winds around Devil's Elbow for a total distance of 3.2 miles from the launch. The BTS 7 - Rollestown marker is located on the shoreline about 50 yards shy (north) of the overhead power line crossing.

The return trip can reverse the outbound course for a shorter paddle. Those wishing to extend the paddle to just over 8 miles can cross the River due west from BTS 7 and follow the west, or "Indian Shore" northwest around Devil's Elbow and back into and around historic Wilsons Cove before returning to the launch site at BTS 4. Those choosing this option should **use extreme caution** when crossing the River at Devil's Elbow due to high-speed boat traffic in this area.

Coordinates:

BTS 4 Palatka: 29° 38.799'N 81° 37.676'W

BTS 7 Rollestown: 29° 37.863'N 81° 35.449'