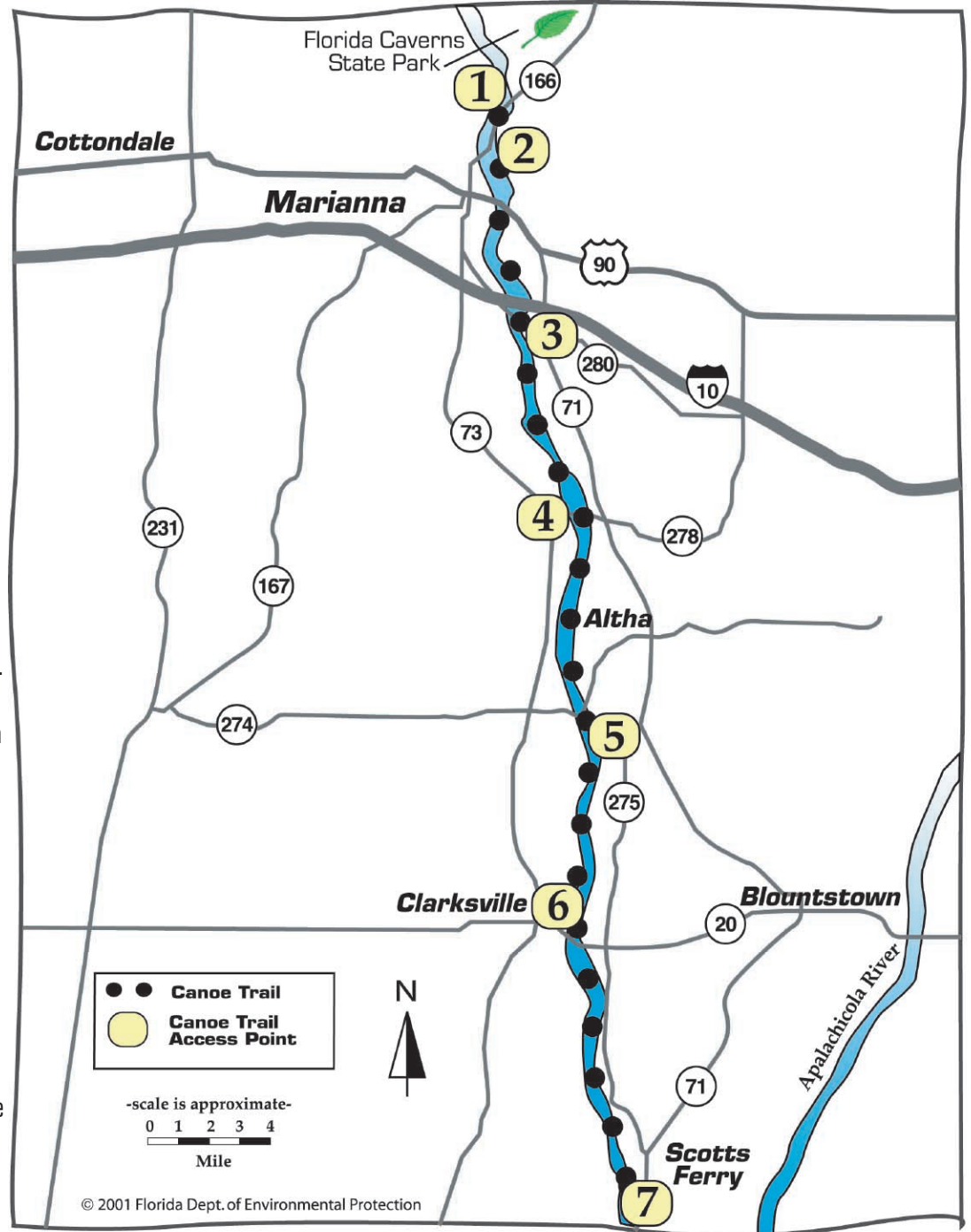


Chipola River Canoe Trail

Lush hardwood hammocks and limestone outcroppings characterize the Chipola.

The Chipola River Canoe Trail is officially designated as part of Florida's Statewide System of Greenways and Trails. This trail begins at Florida Caverns State Park, where you can explore the intriguing network of caves and formations made by droplets of mineral water. This beautiful trail flows through river swamps and hardwood forests of beech, magnolia, oak and dogwood. Beaver, alligator, and turtles are sometimes seen on the river, and pileated woodpecker can be heard drumming in the forest. Limestone bluffs and caves are also seen along the river. Several shoals are found in this pale-colored stream, especially in low water. You should especially note the shoal known as "Look and Tremble Falls" below the SR 274 bridge and portage if necessary.



-continue-

Chipola River Canoe Trail

Counties: Calhoun, Jackson

Mileage: 52

Skill Level: Beginner to intermediate

Difficulty: Easy to moderate

Usual Current: Average (2-3 mph)

Notes and Precautions

Most paddlers should begin at Access 2 – the SR 166 bridge. The trail downstream from the state park is dangerous and requires technical paddling skills. The trail here is an old log chute with little water and very low hanging trees. An optional ending for the trail is at Dead Lakes State Recreation Area. The thousands of dead trees still standing in the lake were killed when the area was impounded. Do not attempt this portion in bad weather. Camping is available at the state recreation area. During low water, log jams and submerged rocks may require portage.

Access

1. Florida Caverns State Park – Three miles north of Marianna on SR 166.
2. SR 166 Bridge – One mile north of Marianna. (1 mile)
3. SR 280 Bridge/Magnolia Road – One mile west of SR 71, just south of I-10. (10 miles)
4. SR 278 Bridge/Peacock Bridge Road – One mile west of SR, 6 miles south of I-10. (10 miles)
5. SR 274 Bridge – About three miles west of Altha (SR 71) 11 miles south of I-10. (8 miles)
6. SR 20 Bridge – One mile east of Clarksville at wayside park. (10 miles)
7. SR 71 Bridge – At Scott's Ferry. (13 miles)

There may be access points (both public and private) in addition to those listed here. Please remember that some sites require a fee for launching and/or parking.



www.floridagreenwaysandtrails.org