

## The Santa Fe River

The last major tributary of the Suwannee River is the Santa Fe River. The Santa Fe drains 1,380 square miles and much of its average flow from springs and local aquifers. Its major tributaries are the Ichetucknee River, the New Rivers and Olustee Creek.

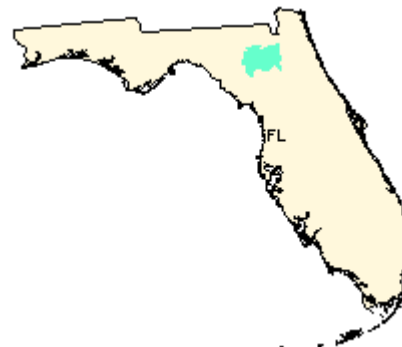
The headwaters of the Santa Fe start in the Santa Fe Swamp along with Lake Santa Fe and Little Lake Santa Fe. These headwaters are located in Alachua County Florida. The waters there are dark and slow moving. The river braids out in several places in the Upper Santa Fe River where it can be difficult to follow the main channel through the swamps.

The Santa Fe River disappears into a giant sinkhole at O'Leno State Park. The river emerges again three miles away at the Santa Fe River Rise State Park with a little more flow than it had before it went into the ground. The river can be occasionally glimpsed as it flows through several sink holes on the land between the River Sink and the River Rise.

The Santa Fe tends to flood catastrophically when there is excessive local rainfall. The most significant floods of record on the Santa Fe were caused by hurricanes.

The Santa Fe Basin flows through parts of Columbia, Bradford, Union, Alachua Counties. There are very small portions of the basin in Clay and Union Counties. Some of the towns in the Santa Fe Basin are Starke, Alachua, High Springs, Lake City and Fort White.

Some of the most popular springs on the Santa Fe are the Ichetucknee River, Hornsby Springs, Poe Springs, Blue Springs and Ginnie Springs. All of these springs are located downstream from the River Rise. The Santa Fe is a very popular destination for canoe and kayak enthusiasts. The picturesque unnamed springs along the banks make for a delightful wilderness adventure.



Figures from USEPA Watershed Site [http://cfpub.epa.gov/surf/huc.cfm?huc\\_code=03110206](http://cfpub.epa.gov/surf/huc.cfm?huc_code=03110206)

### Santa Fe River Links:

Online Document from US Geological Survey – Water Resources of the Santa Fe River Basin

<http://pubs.er.usgs.gov/usgspubs/wri/wri834075>

Santa Fe River Springs

<http://tfn.net/Springs/SantaFeChapter.html>

SRWMD Upper Santa Fe River Minimum Flows and Levels Document

<http://mysuwanneeriver.com/resources/srwmd+mfl+upper+santa+fe+river+11-30-04.pdf>

River Rise State Park

<http://www.floridastateparks.org/riverrise/default.cfm>

Oleno State Park

<http://www.floridastateparks.org/oleno/default.cfm>

Links to real time River Level Gages on the Santa Fe River

NEW RIVER NR LAKE BUTLER FLA

[http://waterdata.usgs.gov/fl/nwis/uv/?site\\_no=02321000&PARAMeter\\_cd=00065,00060](http://waterdata.usgs.gov/fl/nwis/uv/?site_no=02321000&PARAMeter_cd=00065,00060)

SANTA FE RIVER AT WORTHINGTON SPRINGS, FLA.

[http://waterdata.usgs.gov/fl/nwis/uv/?site\\_no=02321500&PARAMeter\\_cd=00065,00060](http://waterdata.usgs.gov/fl/nwis/uv/?site_no=02321500&PARAMeter_cd=00065,00060)

BAD DOG BRANCH NEAR ALACHUA, FL

[http://waterdata.usgs.gov/fl/nwis/uv/?site\\_no=02322049&PARAMeter\\_cd=00065,00060](http://waterdata.usgs.gov/fl/nwis/uv/?site_no=02322049&PARAMeter_cd=00065,00060)

SANTA FE RIVER NEAR FORT WHITE, FLA.

[http://waterdata.usgs.gov/fl/nwis/uv/?site\\_no=02322500&PARAMeter\\_cd=00065,00060](http://waterdata.usgs.gov/fl/nwis/uv/?site_no=02322500&PARAMeter_cd=00065,00060)

SANTA FE RIVER NEAR FORT WHITE, FLA.

[http://waterdata.usgs.gov/fl/nwis/uv/?site\\_no=02322800&PARAMeter\\_cd=00065,00060](http://waterdata.usgs.gov/fl/nwis/uv/?site_no=02322800&PARAMeter_cd=00065,00060)