

McKinney Falls State Park

Self-Guided Packraft Tours

Hi Folks,

Thank you for your interest in our McKinney Falls Tour! We've shared our experience on Instagram to review what to expect. Additionally, we have done the full route so we can make sure you are aware of all obstacles, hazards, exits, etc. to the best of our ability.

This is a self-guided tour so this guide is for your knowledge on best practices but it is ultimately your decision on how to utilize it.

We've created this Self-Guided Tour from West of McKinney Falls State Park into the park and offering your choice of leaving at the last Falls (our recommendation) or continuing on past the first bridge to the Last Get Out exit.

Additionally, we put a list of important locations in our Google Maps we've shared with y'all with notes at each location. **Be sure to review.** Also, the full tour experience is below in the YouTube link.

- <https://goo.gl/maps/6kZDb96cSnCR16h99>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9lzMBJ7Ilqk&t=6s>

Hazards

- Slippery Rocks
- Hiking Trails
- Trees/Branches in and out of the water
- Walking with the Packraft and gear when the water ends to the next section of the river
- McKinney Falls
- Insects, bugs, lizards, snakes, algae, etc. (it's Texas in the wild, be mindful folks)

- Water temperatures reduce between October to March and may cause hypothermia (As of 11/17, water temps are 74 degrees). Your goal is to stay as dry as possible.
- Air temperatures (not recommended to go out in sub 50s temperature)
- All hazards are not listed but this is to get you thinking of the potential you may encounter. Be mindful you are headed to an unexplored area of Austin and it's wild.

Safety

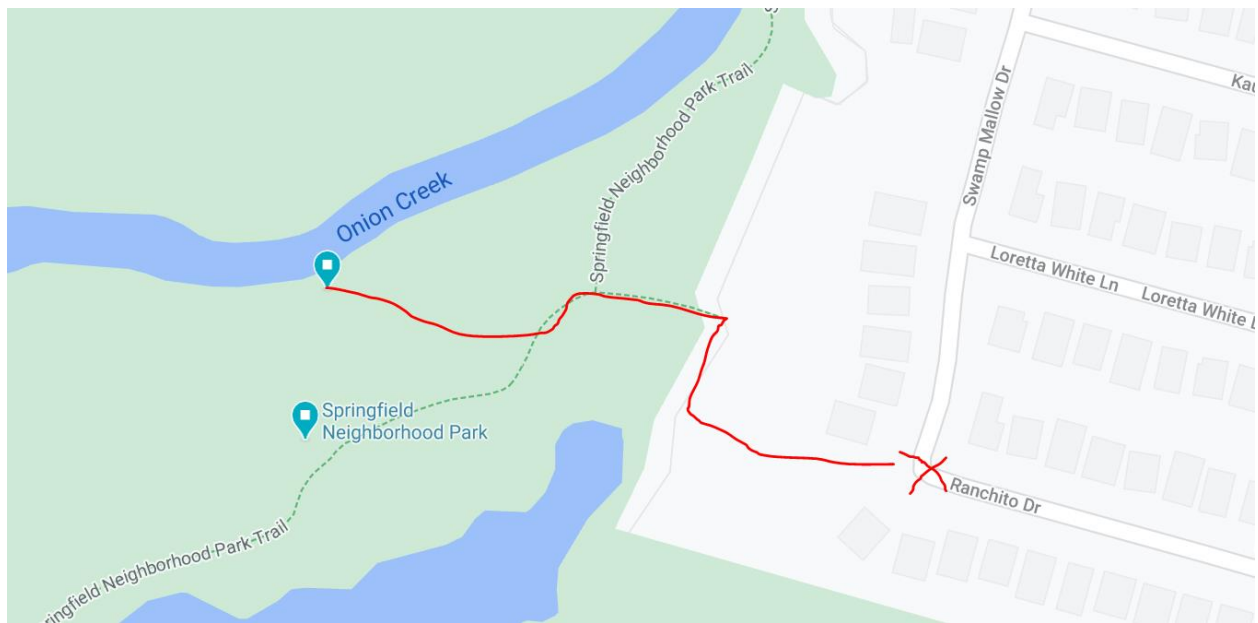
- Dress accordingly based on air temperature and water temperature.
- GOAL is to stay DRY.
- Wear water shoes. Your feet will get wet. You will have to get in and out of the packraft. A majority of the tour is connected by water. After the last Falls, you will have to get in and out of the water more often till you hit the bridge.
- Life-Jacket will be provided. We suggest you wear the entire time. The water is deep in the beginning of the tour after the first 5 minutes till you hit McKinney.
- Everything is slippery. Consider every rock to be slippery even if it is dry because your feet are wet. **BE MINDFUL.**
- All safety elements are not listed as this is adventures is ultimately on you and your decisions.
- Be sure to bring at least a large water bottle and maybe a backup. Our first tour our bottle hit a rock between the falls and spilled everywhere.
- This is an adventure in nature which is calm at times and a work-out. This tour can be strenuous at times.

The Tour:

1. Springfield Neighborhood Park is a public park. Be aware this is a neighborhood and don't park in front of driveways. Parking at the end of Ranchito Drive is the recommendation. Drive here: <https://rb.gy/fkefbg>
2. Take all your gear, while still in the backpack, down the trail towards the entrance of Onion Creek here: <https://rb.gy/yia0lr>
3. At this point, unpack all your gear. Put all the pieces of the paddle together. Inflate the seat and packraft now with either the manual pump or

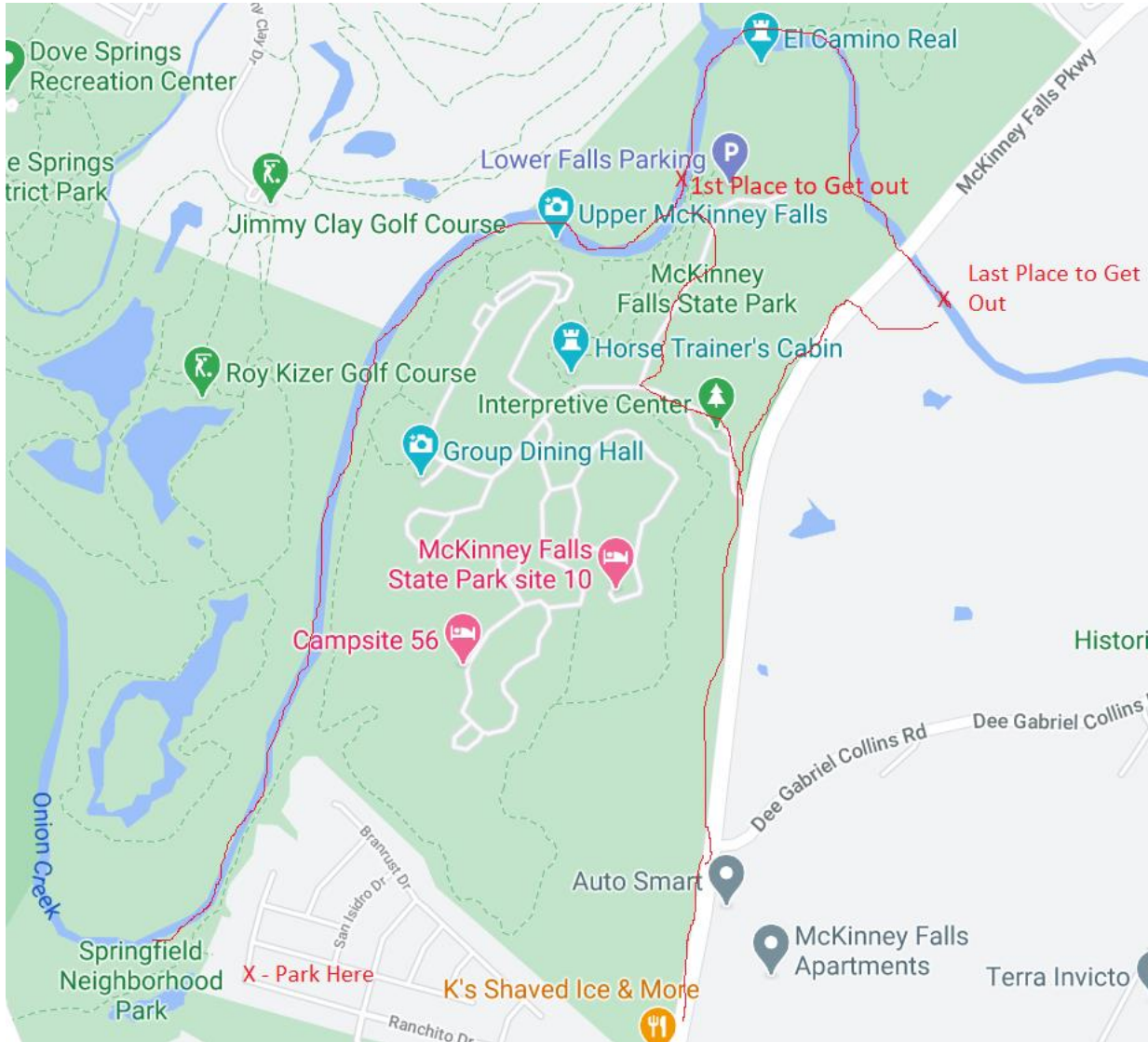
automatic feather pump. If you have a feather pump, we suggest you utilize that to start until you cannot anymore. Finish off till 3-4 PSI with the manual pump. Place the automatic feather pump in the dry bag after you are done.

4. Before you leave, make sure all your gear is in the packraft. We recommend you put on your life jacket last and then you are ready to launch.
5. Head down river (with the water current) towards McKinney Falls State Park.
6. For the first 30 minutes, you will get in and out of the packraft a few times depending on the water levels.



7. The water can be deep at times and there are large rocks that appear within this section so look down as you paddle as to not hit them.
 - a. The packrafts are durable but do your best to paddle around hazards.
 - b. You can drag these packrafts across the small rocks when you get out.
 - c. When getting out between the falls, we suggest you carry all your gear between these sections.
8. Between the Falls, the creek gets tighter again in the trees so be aware of fallen trees / branches in the water.

9. Approaching the last Falls, you will see Boulders. If you become stuck then you'll have to get out before them. We've pushed through these boulders in the past so it is possible if you take your time and there are not many branches to stop you.



10. You can get out at the Last Falls if you'd like and this is our recommendation here: <https://rb.gy/wpwhrg>. You can either order an Uber or pack up and wipe down all the gear within the backpack and walk back to your starting point.

a. This is a 25 - 30 minute walk back to the car.

- b. Head out of McKinney Falls State Park, take a right down McKinney Falls Pkwy, take your first right at William Cannon, take the 3rd street on the right Janes Ranch Rd. Take your first left on Ranchito Rd and head to your car.
11. If you decide to go to the Last Get Out located here: <https://rb.gy/8bcz9m>, the creek is tighter and there are more in/outs of the packraft but it is more woodsy and unique than the rest of the tour. After you hit the bridge, go another 50 yards to the end of the natural pool.
 - a. Get out here on the right, if you walk up, you'll see a dirt road towards a field. Pack up and wipe down all your gear and remember you have everything with you.
 - b. Follow this to the main road, McKinney Falls Parkway to the right.
 - c. You can request an Uber at this point on the main road or head south on this road. Take your first right at William Cannon, take the 3rd street on the right Janes Ranch Rd. Take your first left on Ranchito Rd and head to your car here: <https://rb.gy/fkefbg>. This is a 30 - 40 minute walk back to the car.
12. When you are finished, be sure to return the gear back to the shipping container kiosk and use the duration pin codes you previously used.