

S13 Day Paddles - Peace River

SR 60 to Heritage Peace River Landing Paddle Information Sheet

Description: The Peace River winds through moss-draped cypress swamps, shady hammocks and hardwood forests. This blackwater river has a dark tea color. It twists and turns becoming alternatively narrow with a swifter current, then wider with a slower current. Creeks feed the river, but rainfall is the main source of water. When the water is low, some areas present light rapids. You can expect to see deer, otters, cows, various birds, alligators, and turtles.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 8.5 Miles/4 - 7 Hours (depending on water levels)

Launch Site: SR 60 Bridge

Takeout Site: Heritage Peace River Landing

Special Considerations: This paddle requires shuttling. Occasional deadfall and snags, especially after a storm or during periods of low water. For the section from Bartow to the Heritage Peace River Landing, it is advised that the USGS gauge at Bartow should have a minimum flow rate of 30 CFS (cubic feet per second). Contact a local outfitter to check on safe water levels before paddling. The river becomes shallow in the northern stretches first. When water is low, paddlers should expect to drag boats regularly.

Skill Level Definitions

Beginner: New to paddling and may need tips and or instructions about paddling strokes, safety procedures, and entering/exiting kayaks. Comfortable on short trips of 1 to 3 miles on protected waters, when wind does not exceed 5 mph.

Novice: Paddlers acquainted with basic paddle strokes and can manage kayak handling independently in winds not exceeding 10 mph on protected waters. Comfortable on trips up to 6 miles.

Intermediate: Paddlers with experience in basic strokes and some experience on different venues, including some open water. Comfortable on trip distances of 6 to 10 miles, winds not exceeding 15 mph.

Advanced: Seasoned paddlers who possess skills and experience to paddle all venues and conditions. Experienced in self-rescues. Should be comfortable paddling more than 10 miles in a day.

NOTE: Great care has been taken to ensure this guides accuracy, but weather, tides, and water conditions can change rapidly and create hazardous conditions. These maps are for visual reference only, please consult NOAA Charts for navigation. Paddlers should have all proper safety equipment and check conditions before departure. All paddlers should always wear PFDs while on the water, and leave a float plan. There are inherent dangers in any paddle sport. There are special hazards along the Florida coast due to shifting tides, changing wind and weather, shallow waters, and treacherous bottoms with soft mud, rocks, and oyster bars. It is up to each paddler to be aware of these dangers, to accept and be prepared for the risks involved, and to be certain they have the skills to safely paddle in these conditions.