

S13 Day Paddles - Peace River

Memorial Park Ramp to Nocatee Ramp 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. Through a series of discoveries by amateur geologists and mining engineers, the Florida “phosphate boom” of the late nineteenth century was sparked. In 1881, Captain J. Francis LeBaron of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers discovered phosphate while surveying the Peace River south of Fort Meade. Additional deposits were discovered in 1886 by John C. Jones and Captain W.R. McKee, who quickly formed a company and commenced mining operations. In 1888, Captain T.S. Moorehead created the Arcadia Phosphate Co., purchasing the rights to mine sections of the riverbed. Almost back to it’s natural state, you can expect to see deer, otters, cows, various birds, alligators, and turtles.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 6.9 Miles/3 Hours

Launch Site: Memorial Park Ramp

Takeout Site: Nocatee Ramp

Special Considerations: This paddle requires shuttling. Contact a local outfitter to check on safe water levels before paddling.

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.