

S1ER Day Paddles - Escambia River

Little Williams Lake Ramp to Mystic Springs Landing Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This paddle starts off at Little Williams Lake, and winds down Mitchell Creek to the Escambia River, and on to Mystic Springs. Like the rest of the Escambia River, this is a blackwater creek, including the area around Mystic Springs. The area is very secluded and usually very quiet, with little boat traffic, until you get to the river. As you get closer to the river, Mitchell Creek opens up into a large flood plain with open cypress and willow trees. Plenty of birdlife can be seen. Water levels are completely dependent upon rainfall. Free camping is available at Mystic Springs with reservations. For camping reservations, go to [Mystic Springs - Online Reservations - Site Details \(camplife.com\)](http://MysticSprings-OnlineReservations-SiteDetails.camplife.com) .

Skill Level: Novice/Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 2.3 Miles /1.5 Hours

Launch Site: Little Lake Williams Rec Area Ramp

Takeout Site: Mystic Springs Landing Ramp

Special Considerations: Map and compass recommended. The dirt road to Little Williams can be difficult to drive on after heavy rains. The dirt ramp is best suited for launching kayaks and canoes. This paddle requires shuttling.

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.