

S1ER Day Paddles - Escambia River

McDavid Park to Williams Lake Ramp Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Once the Conecuh River passes into Florida from Alabama, it becomes the Escambia River. This northernmost section in Florida includes the confluence of the Big Escambia Creek. The river heads off through the trees, and your path may vary from one trip to the next. If the water is flowing fast, you will have to be prepared to maneuver your boat quickly. Lots of people swim in this section -- not on purpose. When the water levels are low, there are plenty of sandbars for getting out to stretch your legs.

Skill Level: Advanced

Distance/Approximate Time: 16 Miles/6.5 Hours

Launch Site: McDavid Park Ramp

Takeout Site: Williams Lake Ramp

Special Considerations: You should be prepared for obstacles and maybe a few pullovers. A handsaw and loppers are good to have. If the water on Escambia River is high, Big Escambia Creek may back up, making it more interesting, but there may be some tricky currents in places, so caution is advised.

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.