

S1 Day Paddles and Overnight Camp Trips - Intracoastal Waterway

Alabama Line Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This is a short paddle over to the first Island in the Perdido River that is in Alabama. After going under the Perdido Key Drive (292) bridge, the Intracoastal is fairly narrow and lined with developments along both shorelines. The ICW eventually opens up into the Perdido River where you will find a series of three low islands. The AL/FL state line is just east of the third island. If you circumnavigate this island. You will have crossed the state line. There are sandy beaches on all three islands if you need to get out and stretch your legs, have a snack, or want to take a swim. Return is back the same way you came to Big Lagoon State Park.

Skill Level: Novice

Distance/Approximate Time: 3.9 Miles/2 Hours

Launch Site: Big Lagoon State Park Main Boat Ramp

Special Considerations: Park entry fee. Stay out of the channel when possible, and paddle along the shoreline. Be aware of powerboat traffic in the area., especially in the narrow ICW.

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.