

S1 Day Paddles - Pensacola Bay

Bayou Grande Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Bayou Grande is a **shallow** bayou in West Pensacola, separating Warrington from NAS Pensacola. It empties into Pensacola Bay. Bayou Grande is spanned by three bridges: Near the bayou's mouth, where a bridge carries Navy Boulevard into the main gate of NAS Pensacola, **northwest** of there, by Sunset Avenue, and the Gulf Beach Hwy bridge at the west end of the bayou. In 2017, the DEP completed a Shoreline Restoration Project between Polk and Wayne Avenues, and can be seen while paddling the north shoreline. This is a popular fishing Bayou. The north shore is mostly residentially developed, and the wilder south shore follows Pensacola NAS until just before the Gulf Beach Hwy bridge at the west end.

Skill Level: Advanced

Distance/Approximate Time: 11.8 Miles/6 Hours

Launch Site: Bill Dickson Park Ramp

Special Considerations: Heavy powerboat traffic, especially on weekends and holidays.

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.