

S1 Day Paddles - Perdido River

Filligim Landing to Wilson B Robertson Ramp Paddle Information Sheet

Description: The Perdido River flows about 44 miles from southern Alabama to Perdido Bay, forming Florida's western border with Alabama. Perdido River was named by the Spaniards who occupied the area until 1813 and the name is translated as "lost". The river curves past extensive woodlands of pine, cypress and juniper cedar while numerous sandbars offer ideal rest spots. The sparkling waters are often tinted with yellow or red-black tannins from swamp vegetation, a natural occurrence. Seepage slopes, flatwoods and wet prairie areas within the river basin are home to rare pitcher plants. This 17.2 mile paddling trail is a classic Panhandle river with tea-colored water cradled by white sandbars. The river is narrow, twisting and fast-moving in the upper stretches then becomes wider and slower as it nears Perdido Bay. The river becomes wider and much slower, with fewer sandbars as you approach the takeout.

Skill Level: Advanced, due to distance

Distance/Approximate Time: 17.2 Miles/7 Hours

Launch Site: Filligim Landing Paddle Launch

Takeout Site: Wilson B Robertson Ramp

Special Considerations: Best paddled when water levels are between 2' and 6'. Above that the river can become dangerous.

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.