

S22 Day Paddles - Lower ICW

Sebastian River Paddle Information Sheet

Description: The St. Sebastian River provides a glimpse into the old Florida, the way it was before the state was heavily settled. The St. Sebastian River empties into the Indian River Lagoon and at that point is the dividing line between Indian River County to the south and Brevard County to the north. However, the river's more interesting south fork lies almost entirely in Indian River County. Bird life includes several varieties of heron and egrets, pelicans, ibis, King Fishers and Osprey. Turtles and gators can be found in the upper wilder freshwater section. Early morning is the best time for wildlife viewing. There are several launch areas on the way down where you can get out and stretch your legs and take a break. The lower half is mostly mangrove and the upper is more hardwood forest.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 8.4 Miles/2.5 Hours

Launch Site: Canoe Launch Cove Paddle Launch

Takeout Site: San Sebastian Marina Ramp

Special Considerations: This paddle requires vehicle shuttling. This is a slow moving river except after heavy rains.

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.