

S22 Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - St Johns River

Lake Washington Camping Trip Information Sheet

Description: Launch from Lake Washington Park and take out at River Lakes Conservation Area Boat ramp. This paddle can be done in one day or broken up into several days with overnight camping. There are numerous primitive sites along the river and full service camping at **St. Johns Valley campsite**. Make sure to grab a bite on your way out at Lone Cabbage Fish Camp. This paddle passes through conservation areas that include lakes Washington, Winder and Poinsett. There contains extensive wetland communities, typically dominated by species such as sawgrass, smartweed, arrowhead and maidencane. Other special features include open vistas dotted with palms, seasonal wildflowers and grasslands that change colors with the seasons.

Skill Level: Advanced

Distance/Approximate Time: Leg 1: 20 Miles/8 Hours; Leg 2: 6.1 Miles/2.5 Hours

Launch Site: Lake Washington Park Ramp

Takeout Site: Leroy Wright Rec Area Ramp

Special Considerations: Boat traffic may be busy on Lake Washington during weekends. This trip requires shuttling vehicles.

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.