

S25SJR Day Paddles - St Johns River

St Johns River - Leg 11 Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This is an interesting paddle thru downtown Jacksonville that will include passing by the North and South River Walks, The Landings, Friendship Fountain, the Main Street Bridge and the NFL Jaguars Stadium. A good place for a break as you go under the Mathews Bridge is on Exchange Island's East shore.

Skill Level: Intermediate/Advanced

Distance/Time: 8 Miles/Approximately 3 hours.

Launch Site: St. Johns Marina Ramp. Bathroom facilities nearby.

Takeout Site: Reddie Point Preserve Paddle Launch. Bathroom facilities on site.

Special Considerations: Shuttle required. Increased boat traffic especially on the weekend. Conditions can get rough if windy due to the width of the river. The tidal flow in the more narrow sections of downtown Jacksonville are extreme. Use caution and refer to the local tide tables. Sections of the paddle are near the shipping channel.

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.