

S26ICW - Intracoastal Waterway Day Paddles

St Joseph Creek Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This is a marsh lined estuary creek that runs up in the Tiger Island area. There are multiple side creeks to explore if you wish to add to your paddle, although most lead to dead ends. The turnaround point is just off the first island hammock traveling northwest. Once in the creek you will notice a big drop off in boat traffic, especially on weekdays. There is a small beach area on the north side of the ramp to launch and takeout from, with a short portage to the parking lot, if you want to avoid the heavily used ramp.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 5.4 Miles/2.5 Hours

Launch Site: Dee Dee Bartels Ramp

Special Considerations: Strong tidal currents and heavy boat traffic in the ICW. This is a tide sensitive area and is best starting your paddle about 1 hour before high tide. Navigation issues due to all the side creeks. Map, compass and GPS recommended.

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.