

S27 Day Paddles - Lakes

Alligator Lake Fish Management Area Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Lake City was originally called Alligator, It was also the original home of the University of Florida. Alligator Lake (800 acres) is managed by the FWC. Although the water is usually dark it is clear and you can usually see the bottom. Although there is significant floating vegetation, there are usually plenty of open trails for paddling. Depending on the time of year, there can be blossoming flora and plenty of water birds to view.. There are several sinkholes in the lake and occasionally the north end can have low water levels.

Skill Level: Novice

Distance/Approximate Time: 5.6 Miles/3 Hours

Launch Site: Alligator Lake South Ramp

Special Considerations: Gator sightings are possible. Stay away from people fishing. If you plan to fish, make sure you have a Florida Freshwater Fishing License.

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.