

S28 Day Paddles - Lakes

Lake Santa Fe/Little Lake Santa Fe Paddle Information Sheet

Description: These two lakes, along with Lake Alto and Black Lake, make up the headwaters of the Santa Fe River that flows to the Suwannee River. The 5,800 acre Santa Fe Lake and 1,150 Little Santa Fe Lake are both lined with majestic Bald Cypress. Both lakes are partially developed, but have areas of undeveloped shoreline. The 40 acre Black Lake at the south end of Lake Santa Fe is completely undeveloped and set in a larger wetland area. The shoreline mainly consists of Maidencane, along with Holly, Wax Myrtle and old Bays. Access to Black Lake is a short 200 yards through the Cypress. This whole area offers a great place for observing the multitude of Osprey that use the lake.

Skill Level: Advanced

Distance/Approximate Time: 16.5 Miles/7.5 Hours

Launch Site: Lake Santa Fe Boat Ramp

Special Considerations: Few places to get out of your boat and take a break, except for several boat ramps along the shoreline.

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.