

S29 Day Paddles - Harris Chain Of Lakes

Golden Triangle Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Named after the three municipalities forming the Golden Triangle - Mount Dora, Tavares, and Eustis - this peaceful area of Lake County is rich in history. This paddle also connects three of the lakes in the Harris Chain of Lakes - Lake Dora (4,385 acres), Lake Eustis (7,000 acres), and Lake Harris (13,788 acres) by way of the Dora Canal and the Dead River. The Dora Canal is the most famous waterway in Lake County as a leading sportswriter in the 1930's penned it as "the most beautiful mile of water in the world." Huge ancient cypress trees line the canal with aquatic birds and animals a common site. Occasionally, a family of otters makes an appearance along with the occasional alligator or two. The Dead River connects Lake Eustis and Lake Harris, and got its name from a lack of current. Most of this paddle is along the north shore of Lake Dora, with two short sections on Lakes Eustis and Harris.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 10.7 Miles/4.5 Hours

Launch Site: Lake Dora Gilbert Park Ramp

Takeout Site: Lake Harris Sparks Village Public Ramp

Special Considerations: This paddle requires shuttling. The Dora Canal is a busy area with riverboat cruises, tour boats and local power boaters traveling between lakes.

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.