

## S29 Day Paddles - Harris Chain Of Lakes

### Little Lake Harris Paddle Information Sheet

**Description:** Little Lake Harris, divided from Lake Harris by the Lake Harris Bridge, on Hwy 19, is a bay off Lake Harris at 2,300 acres. It's depth is much greater than Lake Okeechobee to the south, with many deeper holes and ledges. Named initially Lake Astatula, which translates in Native American to "Lake of Sunbeams," The lake is surrounded by sandhills and cypress trees, part of the Central Florida Ridge. The lake is generally lined with cattail and bullrush. The depth in these tall grasses normally ranges from 2 to 5 feet (0.61 to 1.52 m). The bottom is mostly hard sand, except for some marshy areas where the bottom is considerably softer. A great place to paddle is the Double Run area at the bottom of Little Lake Harris. Two spring runs converge into a large bay dotted with lily pads, downed trees and free standing cypress. The eastern most run is longer with numerous bends leading back into a spring area in the rear. The springs feed Little Lake Harris and Lake Harris, and keep the water clearer than most of the other lakes in the chain. Alligators are a common sight.

**Skill Level:** Intermediate

**Distance/Approximate Time:** 9.6 Miles/5 Hours

**Launch Site:** Hickory Point Rec Park Ramp

**Special Considerations:** Be aware of power boat traffic, especially on weekends and holidays.

#### 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.

