S29 Day Paddles - Harris Chain Of Lakes

Lower Lake Griffin Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Lake Griffin is the last lake in the Harris Chain of Lakes, and at 9,473 acres, is the second largest lake in the chain. The lake level is controlled by two locks, one on Haines Creek and the other at the top of the lake at Moss Point near Highway 42. Lake Griffin is the most natural of the Harris Chain lakes, however the southern half is the more developed section. The lake is approximately 7 miles long with minimal development. The City of Leesburg borders the south end and the lake flows into the Ocklawaha River at the north end. Lake Griffin has one of the highest concentration of alligators in the state.

Skill Level: Advanced

Florida Paddling

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Distance/Approximate Time: 16 Miles/6.5 Hours

Launch Site: Lake Griffin State Park Ramp

Special Considerations: State Park entry fee. Be aware of power boaters, especially on weekends and holidays. This is a popular fishing lake.

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.

<u>Novice</u>: Paddlers acquainted with basic paddle stokes 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.

<u>Advanced</u>: 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.