

S29L Day Paddles - Lakes

Lake Dorr Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This paddle is on Lake Dorr, a 1,722 acre lake in the Ocala National Forest. It has been described as one of the prettiest lakes in the National Forest. It's depth varies up to 8 feet. Other than the Park Recreation Area on the west side, and some residences on the lower west side of the lake, the remainder of the shoreline is undeveloped except for a few homes on the east shore, but most of those are back in the woods and are not visible. The lake has a 25-30' ring of 1 to 2' reeds along most of the shore, backed by mostly pines and a few cypress, with oak hardwoods behind the pines. Possible birds you may see are anhingas, great white egrets, wood storks, wood ducks, osprey, and eagles. In the winter months, the lake is occasionally visited by various migratory waterfowl. Depending on the water levels, there are a few small sandy areas at the south end where you can get out to stretch your legs. Also on the eastern shore, there are two paddlecraft launch areas where you can get out for a break. On the south shore behind the long pier/dock is a rental cabin available with reservations through the recreation.gov site.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 7.2 Miles/3.5 Hours

Launch Site: Lake Dorr Rec Area Ramp \$5 day use fee.

Special Considerations: This is a deep lake and can get quite rough on windy days.

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.