

S2 Day Paddles - Choctawhatchee Bay

Basin Creek Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Located in Eglin's Southwest corner and winds down through Basin Bayou to Choctawhatchee Bay, offering both a challenging or leisurely canoe trip in a relatively short amount of time. Along the banks, there is an abundance of red maple trees, which form small canopies of shade over-hanging the creek. Because of the heavy vegetation that Basin Creek passes through, there are not many cleared areas for rest stops. Areas for swimming are also very limited. However, the channel, which connects Basin Bayou with Choctawhatchee Bay, is an excellent swimming area.

Skill Level: Novice

Distance/Approximate Time: 3 Miles/2 Hours

Launch Site: Eglin AFB - RR 218 Basin Creek Paddle Launch

Takeout Site: Nicks Seafood Ramp/Paddle Launch

Special Considerations: This Paddle requires shuttling vehicles.

Special Considerations: State Park entrance Fee. This paddle requires shuttling vehicles. Permits are required from Eglin AFB <https://eglin.isportsman.net/outdoorrecpermits.aspx>. Always make sure the day of the paddle that this area is not closed due to military exercises. Check with the Public Access Map <https://eglin.isportsman.net/files/Public%20Access%20Map%20%28PAM%29%2FRecmap.pdf>.

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.