

S2 Day Paddles - Choctawhatchee Bay

Turkey Creek Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Turkey Creek's swift current and narrow channels make it one of the most fun creeks to paddle in the Florida Panhandle. Turkey's current is about as fast as it gets in this area, and, for much of the route, it is too narrow to even have two kayaks side by side. The creek is also loaded with twists and turns. As soon as you finish one turn, you're having to make another and another. There are also plenty of obstacles in the water to dodge. Turkey Creek is nicely canopied, and, if you get too hot, the water is very inviting. In fact, the last mile of the creek is a popular summertime tubing destination. Aside from passing under a few bridges, this is the only sign of development you'll see until the creek empties out into a small bay.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 8.6 Miles/3.5 Hours

Launch Site: Eglin RR 233 Hippie Hole Paddle Launch

Takeout Site: Twin Cities Park Ramp

Special Considerations: 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.