

S2 Day Paddles - East Bay River

East Bay River Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Located in the southwest corner of Eglin Range, the East Bay River has many deep holes and its black waters maintain a slow meandering current. The river width increases to about 100 feet while passing through the East Bay River swamp. There are numerous low hanging branches but very few snags. To reach the starting point of the canoe trail, go 4.3 miles west of the Hurlburt Gate and turn north on the road to Site A-21. Continue to the first bridge, which is Wells Crossing.

Skill Level: Advanced

Distance/Approximate Time: 12 Miles/6 Hours

Launch Site: Eglin AFB - RR 253 - East Bay River Paddle Launch

Takeout Site: East Bay River Ramp

Special Considerations: No overnight camping is permitted. **The north side of the paddle trail is a restricted area.** The river is bordered by private property on the south side for the final three miles. Exercise special caution to avoid trespassing and littering on this section of the trail. 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%2FRemap.pdf>. This paddle requires shuttling vehicles

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.