

S2 Day Paddles - Upper Lakes

Lake Jackson Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Lake Jackson is divided in half by the Alabama and Florida State Line. The southern half lies in Florida. Although there are a few residential areas along the shoreline, most of it is undeveloped with plenty of cypress lining it's shores. Stretching along the shores of the beautiful 500-acre clear lake, on the Alabama side, is a compact 40-acre city park (Lake Jackson Park) that offers swimming, a bike path and walking trail, excellent fishing, a scenic picnic area, a place to take a break, and a modern lakeside campground.

Skill Level: Novice

Distance/Approximate Time: 3 Miles/2 Hours

Launch Site: Lake Jackson Landing Ramp

Special Considerations: Limited parking along side of road. Water skiing and personal watercraft are also allowed on the lake, so be careful of power boaters, especially on weekends.

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.