

S30 Day Paddles - Rock Springs Run

Rock Springs to Wekiva River Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Rock Springs pours from a partially submerged cave and does not make the typical headwater lagoon or pool. The spring flows immediately into a stream which is partially diverted through Kelly Park, Apopka, FL which is invaded on weekends by hundreds of tubers. This paddle begins just below Kelly Park at King's Landing, however a great addition to this paddle is to explore upstream for about a mile toward the headwaters. Rock Springs is truly a beauty to behold for the entire 8 mile stretch. A gentle current keeps you moving and there are opportunities for frequent rest breaks. Along the journey you'll see gators, numerous turtle species, bass, gar, catfish, numerous birds and, if you are lucky, a deer or two.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 8.3Miles/4-5 Hours

Launch Site: King's Landing Paddle Launch, An alternate site is Camp Joy at Kelly Park.

Takeout Site: Wekiva Island Paddle Launch

Special Considerations/ Safety Issues: Possible occasional portage required. This paddle requires shuttling, which can be done on your own, or arranged through King's Landing. Fees at both ends if self-shuttling. Online Reservations at King's Landing website required. Avoid weekends if possible. This is a very popular spring run! Kayak/canoe rentals are available. There is a 300 yard portage if launching from Camp Joy..

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.