

## S32 Day Paddles - Lake Arbuckle

### Lake Arbuckle Circumnavigation Paddle Information Sheet

**Description:** Launch on Arbuckle Creek, just south of the lake. This short paddle to the lake is probably the most scenic part of Arbuckle Creek. Lake Arbuckle Statistics: Lake Type: Natural Freshwater Lake, Not Dammed; Surface Area: 3,828 acres; Shoreline Length: 12 miles. Arriving at Lake Arbuckle on the right is a ramp that from the water appears to be a public launch but in fact is part of the military base and not open to the public. On the left is Camp Arbuckle, a private facility with camping, fishing and a fee launch. There are no residences along its 12-miles of shoreline, except for a short distance along the south shore, and much of the shore is bordered by wetlands, bogs, swamps and other water-based environments. Cypress draped in moss frames the shore. The south end has some vegetation out into the lake. But there are PVC markers to get out to the open water. This is a deep and popular fishing lake. Birds, wildlife and alligators are common a common sight. For a shorter paddle, up to the lake and back is about 6 miles round trip.

**Skill Level:** Advanced, due to distance and open water on the lake

**Distance/Approximate Time:** 14.3 Miles/6 Hours

**Launch Site:** Burnt Out Bridge Public Ramp, on East Arbuckle Rd.

**Special Considerations/ Safety Issues:** This is a big lake, and it can get quite choppy on windy days.

#### 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.