

S32 Day Paddles - Lake Tohopekaliga

Lower Lake Tohopekaliga Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Lake Tohopekaliga is a popular sport fishing destination in Florida and a popular site for eco-tourism. FWC currently lists Lake Tohopekaliga as one of the top fishing locations in Florida for bass, crappie and bream species. The protection and enhancements to the shoreline of Lake Tohopekaliga along the property boundary will preserve and enhance the existing sport fishery of the lake. Floodplain marshes occur along the lake are comprised of grassy, herbaceous and shrubby vegetation. This community currently exists along the lakeshore of Lake Tohopekaliga and separates the lake from the more inland floodplain swamp community. Just inland from the shoreline is floodplain swamp, a closed-canopy forest of hydrophytic trees occurring on frequently or permanently flooded hydric soils adjacent to floodplains. Trees are often buttressed, and the understory and groundcover are sparse. This community currently exists around the lake and separates, generally, the floodplain marsh from the hydric hammock. Characteristic vegetation within this community currently includes: Bald cypress, Cabbage palm, Pond cypress, Red maple, and Swamp tupelo. Fauna you may see includes Eagles, Snail Kites, Great Blue Herons, Tri-color Herons, Sandhill Cranes, Wood Storks, Limpkins, and Otters and Gators; also, migratory waterfowl in the winter months.

Skill Level: Advanced

Distance/Approximate Time: 17.5 Miles/8 Hours

Launch Site: Granada Public Ramp

Special Considerations: This is a large open lake and can get quite rough 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.