

S32 Day Paddles - Shingle Creek

Steffee Landing/Babb Landing Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Shingle Creek was named in the late 19th century after the cypress trees that lined the bank, which were used to make wood shingles. This is an easy 2.25 mile round trip. Heading north, the creek is wider and deeper with less current, a popular area for fishing. From the landing, the creek runs under US 192, then the paddling trail ends about a mile upstream just past Babb Landing. This is a nicely wooded section, but at points you may see the condos and apartments through the trees. You may also see cyclists in the distance, as a section of the multi-use Shingle Creek Regional Trail runs near the creek. A bridge crosses the creek, connecting the multi-use trail to Pioneer Village and Babb Landing. Wildlife include fish, alligators, bald eagles, wild turkey, great blue heron, turtles, white-tailed deer and a few river otters. Turnaround is just beyond Babb Landing, which is a great place to take a break. Return is back to Steffee Landing.

Skill Level: Novice

Distance/Approximate Time: 2.25 Miles/2 Hours

Launch Site: Shingle Creek Regional Park - Steffee Landing

Special Considerations/ Safety Issues: South from Steffee Landing includes sections of heavily wooded (mostly stumps and logs) rapids. This section is twisting and turning, often blocked and impassable. Paddling this section is not recommended with "Do Not Enter" and "Stop" signs posted along the creek.

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.