

S3 Day Paddles - Choctawhatchee River

Chain of Lakes Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This pristine area offers a dreamy paddle experience through open and canopied waterway corridors. It is actually a tributary off the Choctawhatchee River. Sounds of pileated woodpeckers can be heard hammering on the giant cypress trees towering above. Barred owls, hawks, songbirds and wading birds forage along the waterway as you explore the connected “lakes.” You may encounter a fisherman or two in small John boats, however larger vessels cannot access the area.

Skill Level: Novice

Distance/Approximate Time: 3 Miles/2 Hours

Launch Site: Ebro Savage Landing Ramp

Special Considerations: The current is typically slow. There are no places to take out, making this trip an out and return from the launch area. Head right (north) to explore the lakes. Parking is limited. Honor box fee: \$3.00. The boat launch is located on private property and does not offer any rentals or guide services. There is a restroom located at the north end of the parking lot available for public use.

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.