

S3 Day Paddles - East Bay

Callaway Bayou Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This is a fairly short and protected paddle. The first half going up the creek is an urban paddle with homes scattered on both sides of the creek. From that point on, there are no signs of development other than high tension power lines and the remnants of an old logging bridge, which is a good turning around point. For the more adventurous, you can continue another quarter of a mile, or so, until the creek gets too narrow to turn around. The shoreline consists mostly of pines and black needlerush. Great blue herons, osprey, eagles, anhingas, and wood ducks may be seen, as well as an alligator or two, especially on the upper reaches of the creek.

Skill Level: Novice/Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 5.4 Miles/3 Hours

Launch Site: John B Gore Park Ramp

Special Considerations: This paddle is on a fairly shallow creek, especially in the bays on the lower section during low tide. Stay along the west bank for as long as you can, then cut across to the east side for a short distance. Expect at least one pullover on the east side near the end of the houses. On low tide, you may be able to limbo under it, and on high tide, you may be able to paddle over it.

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.