

S3 Day Paddles - Econfina Creek

Walsingham Landing to Bennett Rd Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Econfina Creek is one of the most outstanding waterways in the state and is truly a wild experience, with few signs of human habitation and an abundance of wildlife and native vegetation. This swift flowing waterway is a nature-lovers delight and the upper section offers a challenging adventure for experienced paddlers. Pitt and Sylvan Springs are popular swimming areas in the Econfina Creek Water Management Area (WMA), on the west side of the Econfina, just north of SR 20.

Skill Level: Advanced

Distance/Approximate Time: 12.7 Miles/5 Hours

Launch Site: Walsingham Landing Paddle Launch

Takeout Site: Bennett Rd Paddle Launch

Special Considerations: The river is easiest to paddle when the gauge at Scott Road Bridge reads from 2 to 4 feet. The gauge is not online. After heavy rains, the river is too dangerous to paddle due to strong currents and log jams. Avoid paddling the river when water levels reach nine feet. Check with a local outfitter for water levels and navigability. This paddle requires shuttling vehicles.

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.