

Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Apalachicola Basin

Chipley Creek Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This is a long trip best suited for experienced paddlers. Launch at the Waddell Road Ramp and paddle downstream a little under a half mile to Four Tree Cutoff on your left. When you get to the Little St Marks confluence, take a left and paddle upstream to the St Marks River confluence and take a right. Continue downstream about 1.4 miles to the entrance of Chipley Creek on your left. Continue northward before the creek makes an abrupt turn southward. From this point on the creek becomes very winding until it gets to the marsh. Continue south and cross the St. Marks River when you get to it, to the creek directly opposite the Chipley Creek exit. Continue to the Bay, under the HWY 98 bridge and on to the ramp at Battery Park.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Time: 18.7 Miles/Approximately 6.5 hours

Launch Site: Waddell Road Ramp

Takeout Site: Battery Park

Special Considerations: Long distance. This paddle requires shuttling.

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.