

Coastal, Rivers and Blueways Trails

New River Trail - Leg 1**Sumatra to New River Campsite #3 Information Sheet**

Description: Launch the Sumatra Access and paddle downstream. The river is extremely winding throughout this leg and is challenging for longer kayaks. Occasional sand bars provide an opportunity for a break. The upper part of this river is predominantly cypress with increasing hardwoods. Continue down to Campsite #3 on your left for the take-out.

Skill Level: Intermediate, due loaded boats and navigating the sharp winding turns.

Distance/Time: 8.2 Miles/Approximately 3 Hours

Launch Site: Sumatra Access off National Forest Road 165

Campsite: New River Camp #7

Special Considerations: This first leg is totally dependent on the water levels and is not navigable during low water conditions, especially the first few miles, otherwise there may be a great deal of portaging involved between pools. Check water levels and flow before starting. This is a Tate's Hell State Forest campsite and requires a permit. Contact the Tates Hell Forest Service office in Carrabelle (877) 879-3859 or Reserve America—Tates Hell—New River to reserve campsite/s.

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.