

Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Ochlockonee River Area

Thom's Island Circumnavigation Information Sheet

Description: Launch at Ochlockonee River SP Ramp, head south, and take your first left into Dead River. Thom's Island will be the forested island on your right. Turn right just after the marsh starts. Generally stay to the right on the first half of the creek, and left on the second half. The creek is narrow and winding. The island is half forested and half salt marsh. Occasional cedar and hollies line the creek, which mostly consists of black needlerush. There are several places at the west end of the island to get out and stretch your legs

Skill Level: Novice

Distance/Time: 2.8 Miles/Approximately 2 hours

Launch Site: Ochlockonee River SP Ramp

Special Considerations: State Park entry fee. Best paddled on medium to high tide.

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.