

## Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - St Marks/Wakulla Rivers

**Lower St Marks River Paddle Information Sheet**

**Description:** Launch at the St Marks River Park Ramp and head down river past the confluence of the Wakulla River which flows in from your right. You'll notice that the surrounding area becomes increasingly more tidal salt marsh before opening up to the Gulf. Depending on the tide, you may have to paddle around oyster bars as you near the mouth of the river. The canal to the takeout ramps is SE on your left just before the lighthouse.

**Skill Level:** Intermediate

**Distance/Time:** 6.2 Miles/Approximately 2.5 hours

**Launch Site:** St Marks River Park Ramp

**Takeout Site:** St Marks NWR Ramp

**Special Considerations:** Open water on second half of paddle. NWR entry fee. This paddle requires shuttling. Tidal influence.

**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.