

S6 Day Paddles - Cedar Key

Little Trout Creek Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This is a paddle that takes you up to the southern part of the Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge. It includes some open water paddling along the Gulf, and more protected small bays and creeks that wind through the black needlerush and smooth cordgrass lined creeks of the salt marsh. You'll pass by several small hammock islands along the way. There aren't too many places to get out and stretch your legs, but the northeast tip of Deer Island, a small hammock at the southern Lower Suwannee Refuge line on your left (a Refuge sign marks the spot), and another small hammock in Ericson Creek offer several opportunities to get out of your boat. There are usually plenty of birds, including osprey, eagles, oyster catchers, spoonbills, shorebirds, as well as migratory waterfowl in the winter months to observe.

Skill Level: Advanced

Distance/Approximate Time: 11.6 Miles/4 Hours

Launch Site: Shell Mounds Paddler Launch (end of CR 326)

Special Considerations: Paddle at medium to high tide only. A good map and GPS are essential.

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.