

Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Cedar Key Area

Lukens Loop Information Sheet

Description: After leaving the launch site, a quarter mile of a defined, leisurely canal paddle places you among grassy islands, oyster beds and island hammocks, ready to circumnavigate Lukens Loop. Looking to the west as you enter the open back bay, you will see the causeway and fishing pier at #4 bridge. Some pristine white beaches, open bays, marsh, and islands dotted with cabbage palms, pines, palmettos and mangroves will delight the paddler. Paddle on medium to high tide.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Time: 3.1 Miles/1 1/2 - 2 Hours

Launch Site: Enter the Lukens property through an entry gate located on SW 153rd Court, just off SR 24 immediately north of the #4 Bridge. Continue 1/4 mile to the launch site. Gate code and access can be obtained by requesting a Special Use Authorization Permit from the Suwannee River Water Management District at (386) 362-1001. Stay on the public access road. Caution: Launch area may be boggy when wet.

Special Considerations: Navigation around oyster bars on low tides may be a concern.

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.