

Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Cedar Key Area

Old Cedar Key Loop Information Sheet

Description: Launch from the Anchor Hole Boat Ramp used by clam farmers to get to their northern leases. Head east through back waters towards Number 3 Bridge and the large clam aquaculture facilities near the bridge. Paddle among forested islands and oyster bars past the old Cedar Key neighborhood of “Kiss Me Quick.” Continue through the back bayou and past the remaining pilings of the old trestle where David Levy Yulee’s Cedar Key to Fernandina railway crossed the water coming into town. Follow the channel past the Back Bayou waterfront of docks, fishing boats, clam facilities, and a variety of residences and business that still add to Cedar Key’s economy. Pass under Number 2 Bridge and past a marina, more seafood facilities, the historic Cedar Key Cemetery, Cemetery Point Boardwalk and Park, and finally back to the launch spot.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Time: 3 Miles/1 1/2 - 2 Hours

Launch Site: Anchor Hole Boat Ramp. Take Whidden Avenue off SR 24 in Cedar Key to Gulf Blvd proceed north on Gulf Blvd. then take a right on Hodges Ave. Ramp is at end.

Special Considerations: Navigation around oyster bars on low tides may be a concern. Paddle on high tide only.

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.