

Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Steinhatchee Area

Dallus Creek to Jena Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This paddle requires a shuttle. Leave a vehicle in Jena, and proceed to Dallas Creek Landing. Paddle a leisurely mile downstream from the boat ramp at Dallas Creek and then cruise along the Gulf coastline for an 8-mile jaunt back to Jena. Stop by the Dallas Creek Campsite, part of the Big Bend Saltwater Paddling Trail for a break. Bring binoculars and enjoy birding and wildlife viewing on this remote and pristine waterway. Fishing is great at Dallas Creek and the flats along this stretch. Take out is at Good Times Marina in Jena.

Skill Level: Advanced.

Distance/Time: 10.9 Miles/4 Hours

Launch Site: Take CR 400 (Beach Road) north out of Steinhatchee, go about 5.6 Miles after turning north from the river to the Dallas Creek Landing sign on your left. Turn there and follow the main road to the ramp.

Special Considerations: Paddle on medium to high tide. Spray skirt recommended.

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.