

## Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Steinhatchee Area

**Howard Creek Paddle Information Sheet**

**Description:** Launch from Pine Log Ramp and paddle out Pine Log Creek to the Gulf. Pass Pine Log Island on your right and Howard Creek on your left and enter the next Creek. From there, it follows a winding creek through the salt marsh and small island hammocks back to Pine Log.

**Skill Level:** Novice/Intermediate

**Distance/Time:** 2.5 Miles/ 1.5 Hours

**Launch Site:** Take CR 361 south out of Jena, continue about .9 miles from Casey's Cove Convenience Store, take a right, then your first left. Continue on that road to Sand Ridge Rd. (910th St) on the right,, and take that to the end to Pine Log Launch.

**Special Considerations:** Navigation can be difficult due to the large number of side creeks. Should only be paddled on medium to high tide.

**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.