

## Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Steinhatchee Area

**Steinhatchee Falls to 1st Ave NE Ramp Paddle Information Sheet**

**Description:** Leave a vehicle at 1st Ave NE Ramp and proceed to Steinhatchee Falls. Launch from Steinhatchee Falls and enjoy a leisurely 6 mile paddle downstream on the tea-colored waters of the Steinhatchee River. The upper stretch of the river is a shady, moss-draped tunnel that widens as it approaches the Gulf. Take out is at the ramp at the Spurgeon Cheek House.

**Skill Level:** Novice/Intermediate

**Distance/Time:** 6 Miles/ 2 Hours

**Launch Site:** Steinhatchee Falls - Take CR 51 northeast out of Steinhatchee, go approximately 7.3 miles from the Steinhatchee River bridge and turn right on a lime rock road. Go to the end, and take another right and continue to the Park at the falls.

**Takeout Site:** 1st Ave NE Ramp (east end of road)

**Special Considerations:** This paddle requires a shuttle. Canoes and kayaks can be launched below the falls. Watch out for rocks when River is low. If the park is closed due to flooding, there is an alternate site to launch farther up river, and the falls will be covered and not an issue.

**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.