

Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Suwannee Area

Big Bradford Inside Passage Information Sheet

Description: Launch at the Suwannee Community Center, and wind your way along small creeks, passing by a small canal front community on the left and into the heart of Big Bradford Island. This paddle is a fairly protected Paddle covering a large portion of the interior of the Island, with only a short Paddle along the shore of one of the main passes. Although this Paddle is close to the Gulf, the water remains predominately fresh due to the constant flow of the Suwannee River. As with all the Paddles in the freshwater areas, there is a chance of seeing alligators and manatees as well as a multitude of flora and fauna associated with the freshwater delta. Return is back to the Community Center.

Skill Level: Novice/Intermediate

Distance/Time: 4.7 Miles/Approximately 2.5 hours

Launch Site: Suwannee Community Center

Special Considerations: None

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.