

Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Suwannee Area

McCormick/Dan May Creek Loop Information Sheet

Description: This paddle takes you along both main creeks and narrow winding creeks, that vary from salt to more fresh water. Flora includes black needle rush, with some sawgrass and smooth cordgrass. You will paddle close to several small island hammocks as well as the larger Dan May Island, which was once an active resort. Fauna may include gators, ospreys, eagles and various shorebirds. This is a popular fishing area, and you may see a fishing boat just when you think you are out in the middle of nowhere.

Skill Level: Advanced

Distance/Time: 10 Miles/ 4 Hours

Launch Site: McCormick Creek Paddle Launch

Special Considerations: Paddle on a medium to high tide only. Requires GPS, compass and a good map. This maze of marsh creeks are very difficult to navigate, and should be tackled by the more experienced kayakers only. Download the attached KMZ.

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.