

Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Suwannee Area

Palm Island Circumnavigation Information Sheet

Description: Head down Salt Creek toward the Gulf and follow around the southwest tip of Harris Island then up Harris Creek. Part way up Harris Creek, this trail turns northward then exits along the north shore of Palm Island to the Gulf. Follow the shore southward to Salt Creek and duck in behind Barbree Island to the Community Center. This tidal trail is predominantly through the coastal salt marsh.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Time: 6 Miles/2.5 Hours

Launch Site: Suwannee Community Center

Special Considerations: Since a good part of the Paddle is outside along the coast in open water, it should not be attempted when winds exceed your ability. Spray skirt recommended. Should be only paddled on a 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.