

Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Suwannee Area

Sanders Creek/Johnson Creek Loop Information Sheet

Description: This tidal creek Paddle starts down Sanders Creek through hardwood hammock and gradually transitioning to the common black needlerush and smooth cordgrass of the more open saltmarsh. Once at the mouth, turn northward along the open Gulf, and paddle along the beautiful beach on Big Pine Island before the heading up Johnson Creek. And back to the ramp. The habitat variety makes this a great Paddle for birding and photography.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Time: 8.1 Miles/3.5 Hours

Launch Site: From the Suwannee Community Center: Head East on CR 349 2.1 Miles and take a left on the Dixie Mainline. Continue 5.7 miles on the Dixie Mainline to the Sanders Creek Bridge. Parking is limited.

Special Considerations: Since these are tidal creeks, this trail should only be done 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.