

Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Yankeetown Area

Lake Rousseau Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Launch at Dessie Smith Park and paddle the western end of scenic Lake Rousseau which was formed in 1909 when Florida Power built a hydroelectric dam on the Withlacoochee River. There are usually plenty of birds on this body of water, so bring your binoculars and camera.

Skill Level: Novice

Distance/Time: 7.6 Miles/3 Hours

Launch Site: Go south on HWY 19 from Inglis, over the Barge Canal Bridge, continue down to West Riverwood Drive on your left. Turn there and continue straight. Road eventually turns to the right, and the Park and ramp are on your left just after the curve.

Special Considerations: Watch out for the tree stumps! Spray skirt recommended if windy.

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.