

Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips—Chassahowitzka Area

Springs Tour Information Sheet

Description: This is a grand tour of most of the springs along the river. Launch from Chassahowitzka River Campground and head over to the Main Spring on your right and continue NW to Seven Sisters which is a cluster of small springs exiting from a rock shelf. From there you can head down river to Crab Creek Spring and Lettuce Springs on your right. A little further down the river on your left is Baird Creek where you will find Blue Spring and The Crack. There are two more springs farther down river at the end of Salt Creek and Potter Creek. Head back to the river and the campgrounds.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Time: 8.6 Miles/4 hours

Launch Site: Chassahowitzka River Campground at the end of Miss Maggie Drive

Special Considerations: Parking/Launch Fee. Manatees frequent the area during winter months.

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.