

Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Homosassa Area

Mason Creek - Homosassa River - Gulf Information Sheet

Description: Launch from Mason Creek and head west down the creek to the Gulf, then head north along the coast up to the entrance to the Homosassa River. Continue up river to .5 miles before the confluence of the Salt River, on your left and take a right on the creek heading south back to Mason Creek. Once at Mason Creek take a left and proceed back to the ramp. This paddle has a good combination of coastal saltmarsh and spring fed river paddling with few residences until you get half way up the Homosassa River.

Skill Level: Advanced due to distance and some open water paddling.

Distance/Time: 11.7 Miles/6 Hours

Launch Site: Ramp at the end of Mason Creek Rd in Homosassa

Special Considerations: Not recommended at low tide. Navigation issues due to multitude of creeks on way to Gulf.

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.