

## Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Tsala Apopka Chain of Lakes

## Lake Hernando Paddle Information Sheet

**Description:** This paddle follows the shoreline of Hernando Lake and runs northward up through Bellamy Lake and turns around at Dodd Lake. There are a multitude of trails along the eastern shore to explore. Use caution, as these trails are often used by airboaters. Return is southward back to the ramp.

**Skill Level:** Intermediate.

**Distance/Time:** 8.6 Miles/3.5 Hours

**Launch Site:** Hernando Public Ramp at the end of E Lake Place in Hernando

**Special Considerations:** Most lakes on the Tsala Apopka chain are large and can get rough under windy conditions. Open water paddling in the southern half of the paddle

### 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.