

Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Withlacoochee Area

Gum Slough Information Sheet

Description: This creek is a beautiful, crystal clear and pristine gem to paddle. It starts off through a tight, meandering, narrow cypress swamp trail and about half way up it opens up to a wider, grassy paddle with hardwood hammocks. There are multiple springs along the Slough. Please see the Spring Insert Map for locations.

Skill Level: Advanced, due to distance and current going upstream

Distance/Time: 12.2 Miles Total/ 6-7 Hours

Launch Site: Ramp at end of Turner Camp Road in Inverness, FL.

Special Considerations: Occasional snags and deadfall. Narrow winding creek best for shorter paddle craft. Navigation difficult due to adjacent ribbon creeks. Please do not use flagging to mark your way.

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.