

Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Weeki Wachee/Aripeka Area

Hammock Creek Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This is a short protected paddle exploring some of the feeder creeks to Hammock Creek. Launch from the kayak friendly Norfleet's ramp and head right, under the bridge and head east. The first creek past the first canal on your right is a good short loop to start with, then on to the next feeder creek on your right. This one is spring fed. Upon coming out, continue counter clockwise, and there are 3 more feeder creeks in a row, all on your right. After exploring the last, head back and go under the other bridge just past Norfleet's and back to the ramp.

Skill Level: Novice

Distance/Time: 3.3 Miles/2 Hours

Launch Site: Norfleets General Store on CR 595 in Aripeka

Special Considerations: Best paddled on medium to high tide. Small Launch/Park Fee

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.