

S8 Day Paddles - Pithlachascotee River

Lower Pithlachascotee River Paddle Information Sheet

Description: The Pithlachascotee River is lovingly called the "Cotee River" by locals, has it's mouth at New Port Richey. It is primarily an urban river, although it does have some charms. The local paddlers who do not live close to the Cotee, use it primarily during the winter because all rivers block the wind which makes paddling more fun. This route is totally lined with houses and businesses. There is a rest stop at Oelsnar Park, which has a small sandy beach. One interesting feature of this trip are the "stilt houses" which dot the Gulf close to the Cotee River mouth. These are old fishing camps which have been "grandfathered" into the laws. Unfortunately, most are covered with sea bird guano and are not only smelly, but also not very healthful.

Skill Level: Novice/Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 4.3 Miles/2 Hours

Launch Site: Millers Bayou - Oelsner Park Paddle Launch

Special Considerations: This area is extremely tidal sensitive. On weekends, during the warmer months, there can be heavy motor boat traffic. Some open water paddling

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.