

S1ER Day Paddles - Escambia River

Mulatto Bayou Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This paddle starts off in the marsh area of the bayou and continues east with a few intermittent residential areas mixed in, mostly along the southern shoreline. The suggested turnaround point is just beyond the CR 281 (Avalon Blvd) bridge, however, if you wish to extend your paddle, it continues about another 1/2 mile eastward. After turning around and heading back toward the launch area, you'll pass under the 14th Ave bridge, and head out toward Escambia Bay. As you get closer to the bay, and turn south, you'll enter another marsh area made up mostly of black needlerush, just before the takeout at the Archie Glover Ramp. This is a popular fishing area, mainly toward the bay end.

Skill Level: Novice/Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 6 Miles/3 Hours

Launch Site: Avalon Ramp

Takeout Site: Archie Glover Ramp

Special Considerations: Heavy powerboat traffic on weekends and holidays. This paddle requires shuttling. The bayou is tidally influenced.

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.