

S23 Day Paddles - St Johns River

Bluffton Ramp to Volusia Wharf Ramp Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This is a protected paddle down the St Johns past Felana and Lungren Islands, which are in the middle of the river, and the town of Astor. Astor is about halfway along this leg and accounts for most of the developed residential area you will pass by. The remainder is wooded with mostly cypress and hardwood lined banks. The takeout is on your left as you break out into Lake George..

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 8.1 Miles/3.5 Hours

Launch Site: Lake George State Forest Bluffton Recreation Area Paddle Launch

Takeout Site: Lake George Volusia Wharf Ramp

Special Considerations: Stay out of the channel and paddle along the shoreline where possible.

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.