

S23 Day Paddles - St Johns River

Lake Munroe Park Ramp to Hontoon Island State Park Ramp Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This is a long paddle, but has no large open lakes to transverse. After Guava Island, which is about 6 miles into your paddle, all signs of development will begin to disappear. From that point on, the river will be wild, lined with grassy shoreline and scrub hammocks until you get to your takeout at Hontoon Island State Park. There is one exception to developed shoreline, and that is Volusia Blue Springs State Park on your right, about 3 miles before Hontoon Island SP, a great place to get out and stretch your legs. Blue Springs SP is a popular hangout for manatees.

Skill Level: Advanced

Distance/Approximate Time: 14.9 Miles/6 Hours

Launch Site: Lake Munroe Park Ramp

Takeout Site: Hontoon Island State Park Ramp

Special Considerations: Stay out of the channel and along the shoreline when possible. This paddle requires shuttling vehicles.

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.