

S23 Day Paddles - St Johns River

Mud Lake Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This is a clockwise paddle off the St Johns River through the Thornhill Lake area and Hickory Slough to Mud Lake. Return is along Golds Creek back to the St Johns River. Most of this trail is lined by spatterdock, natural grasses and vegetation with a scattering of majestic cypress and Spanish moss and occasional palms. Mud lake has some homes and docks along the western and northern shores, but the homes are located away from the water and up in the wood line. This is paddle has some great areas for birding. Gators are a fairly common sight.

Skill Level: Advanced

Distance/Approximate Time: 10.2 Miles/5.5 Hours

Launch Site: Cameron Wight Park Ramp

Special Considerations: Be cautious of power boats along the St Johns. Stay along the shoreline and out of the channel 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.