

Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Apalachicola Basin

Humphrey Slough Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Launch from the North Shore Bay Road access and paddle down Graham Creek to the East River where you take a right and paddle upstream to the Apalachicola River. Continue down stream (left) on the Apalachicola. Continue about .7 miles to the entrance to Humphrey Slough on your left. Paddle down Humphrey Slough and take a right on the St Marks River. Once on the St Marks River, continue about 1.5 miles to the opening of the East River Cutoff where you will take a left. When you reach the East River take a left and paddle upstream to Gardener Landing on your right.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Time: 11.2 Miles/Approximately 4 hours

Launch Site: North Shore Bay Road access (CR 65) on the SW side of the bridge.

Takeout Site: Gardener Landing

Special Considerations: Current paddling up the East River. GPS recommended to find the entrance to Humphrey Slough. This paddle requires shuttling.

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.