

Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Apalachicola Basin

Saltwater Creek Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Launch at the Sand Beach Road Pier and paddle along the right shore to the entrance of Saltwater Creek which is just to the right of the point sticking out into Blounts Bay. Continue up Saltwater Creek. There is a large loop you can take on your left that swings through a hardwood hammock and back to the creek. Continue up the creek to the fork. You can turn around here, or for the more adventuresome, you can explore either of the forks. The left one is the shorter one and heads into the hardwood forest. Return is back to the takeout at the pier.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Time: 7.2 Miles/Approximately 3.5 hours

Launch Site: Sand Beach Road Pier

Special Considerations: GPS recommended to find the entrance to Saltwater Creek.

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.