

Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Apalachicola Basin

St Marks River Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Launch at Gardener Landing and head down the East River .75 miles to the East River Cutoff on your right. Continue through the Cutoff. When you get to the St Marks River take a left and continue downstream. At the confluence of the Little St Marks, take a left and continue down the St Marks. Continue about 3.8 miles to a creek entrance on your right. Continue to the bay and under the HWY 98 bridge. Turn right and paddle around the south tip of the island ahead and on to the canal that leads to the Battery Park Ramps.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Time: 15.4 Miles/Approximately 6 hours

Launch Site: Gardener Landing

Takeout Site: Battery Park in Apalachicola

Special Considerations: Open water paddling at end of trip. This paddle requires shuttling. GPS recommended.

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.