

S14ENPF Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips Everglades National Park - Flamingo

Alligator Creek Camping Trip Information Sheet

Description: Alligator Creek is a ground campsite located on Garfield Bight and Florida Bay. After launching, head east across West Lake to Mangrove Creek at the south east end. This short passageway will take you into Long Lake. Continue east southeast to the end of Long Lake, through Alligator Creek and into The Lungs. On the west end of the lungs continue on Alligator Creek that leads to the campsite. This is a great birding trip. Bring your binoculars.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Time: 8.7 Miles Each Way/4 Hours Each Way

Launch Site: Everglades National Park Main Park Rd. - West Lake Paddle Launch

Special Considerations: Consult the ENP website when planning a trip. Backcountry Permit required for camping. Check water levels and navigability with Park Rangers before departure. The lakes are very shallow. Maps and 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.