

S3 Day Paddles - Deer Point Lake Area

Bayou George Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Bayou George flows into Deer Point Lake, a 5,000 acre dammed impoundment located 7 miles north of Panama City off US 231 and SR 77 at Southport. It supplies more than 760 million gallons of fresh water daily to Panama City and the surrounding areas. Bayou George starts off wide and gradually tapers to a narrow steam after the US 231 Bridge, the turnaround, which is the first bridge you come to. You can probably paddle another 1/2 mile before you have to turnaround when it turns into a swampy area. This paddle has one of the best birding locations in the area. Check out the last couple of bays before the bridge. There is an abundance of herons, egrets, ibises, anhingas, native waterfowl, and migratory waterfowl in the winter months. Eagles are commonly seen in this area. Aquatic vegetation is mostly hydrilla and bladderwort with plenty of white water lilies and spatterdock, but is usually thin enough to paddle through where needed. Gators are often seen in the warmer months.

Skill Level: Advanced

Distance/Approximate Time: 10.7 Miles/5 Hours

Launch Site: Bayhead South Ramp

Special Considerations: The first and last part of this paddle are in open water and can get quite rough on windy days.

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.