

S3 Day Paddles - Deer Point Lake Area

Cedar Creek Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Cedar Creek 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. Cedar Creek starts off fairly wide and gradually tapers to a narrow stream, ending in a swampy cypress area. For the more adventurous in small boats, you can paddle to the left and right of the swampy area another 1/4 mile or so each way. There are a few scattered homes once up the creek. Eagles are commonly seen on the creek, as well as wading birds and migratory waterfowl during the winter months. Gators are occasionally seen. The first part of the paddle is through scenic cypress stumps, and patches of hydrilla. This end of the lake is the most scenic.

Skill Level: Novice/Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 6.1 Miles/3Hours

Launch Site: Deer Point Lake - Bayhead North Ramp

Special Considerations: Be careful when paddling in the cypress stumps because there are many just under the surface, and it's easy to paddle right up on top of them.

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.