

S3 Day Paddles - Deer Point Lake Area

Deer Point Lake Paddle Information Sheet

Description: A 5,000-acre dammed impoundment located 7 miles north of Panama City off US 231 and SR 77 at Southport. Deer Point Lake is fed mostly by the spring-fed Econfina Creek, Cedar Creek and Bayou George, all natural freshwater streams and supplies more than 760 million gallons of fresh water daily to Panama City and the surrounding areas. This short trail takes you along a waterway that is surrounded by Cypress stumps that you can paddle in and out of. Just be aware that you may occasionally paddle up on one. The water is clear tannic, mainly due to the spring-fed Econfina Creek. There are usually plenty of water birds in the area, and migratory waterfowl in the winter months. Eagles are often seen, and occasionally a gator or two. The scenery is expansive and gorgeous.

Skill Level: Novice/Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 4.2Miles/2Hours

Launch Site: Deer Point Lake - Bayhead North Ramp

Special Considerations: This paddle is 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.