

## Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Panacea/ St Marks Area

**Boggy Island Circumnavigation Information Sheet**

**Description:** This counterclockwise paddle takes you up Spring Creek to a small creek that separates Boggy Island from the mainland. Boggy Island is typical Florida salt marsh consisting of black needlerush, with some smooth cordgrass along the shoreline. The southern edge of the island is lined with scrubby brush. Keep the island on your left and head up Spring Creek. In about 1/3 mile, you should see two freshwater spring boils, one in the creek, and one near the entrance to the first canal on your right. Return is ahead, up Spring Creek to your launch site.

**Skill Level:** Novice/Intermediate, due to open water paddling.

**Distance/Approximate Time:** 3.2 Miles/2 Hours

**Launch Site:** Spring Creek Ramp

**Special Considerations:** Launch fee. Open water paddling, not recommended on windy days. Recommended paddling on medium to high tides only Due to shallow creek and numerous oyster bars.

**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.