

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

Mashes Sands Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Begin at the Wakulla County Park's Mashes Sands Recreational Facility. Paddle east around the tip of Mash Island, following the shore along the back side. Stop at the broad white sand beach for a rest or picnic. Continue west along shoreline toward Levy Bay. End at the Porter Island Ramp.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Time: 6.3 Miles/Approximately 2.5 hours

Launch Site: Mashes Sands Recreation Area, on the beach just before the fishing pier on your left.

Takeout Site: Porter Island Ramp

Special Considerations: Best paddled in low winds on an incoming tide. This paddle requires shuttling.

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.