

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

Panacea to Spring Creek Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Launch at the Porter Island Ramp. Paddle north, along the shoreline of the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. Stop at the end of Skipper Bay Road to rest or for a snack. Continue into Oyster Bay toward Spring Creek. Time permitting, paddle up Spring Creek and explore the upwelling springs around town. End at the Spring Creek Ramp.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Time: 6.8 Miles/Approximately 3 hours

Launch Site: Porter Island Ramp at the end of Bottoms Road

Takeout Site: Spring Creek Ramp

Special Considerations: Paddle near shore in shallow water. Watch for exposed oyster bars. Route is susceptible to wind and currents. Best traveled on an incoming high tide with little wind. Pay Ramp at Spring Creek. 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.