

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

Piney Island Circumnavigation Information Sheet

Description: Launch at the Porter Island Ramp and head ESE around the southern tip of Piney Island and continue your way northward keeping the shoreline on your left all the way around the northern tip. On your return southward, be aware of the many oyster bars during the first half of your southern leg. Return to the Porter Island Ramp on your right.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Time: 9.7 Miles/Approximately 4 hours

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

Special Considerations: Oyster bars along the northern half of the paddle, and open water along the SE shore.

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.