

S25 Day Paddles - St Johns River Western Watershed

Ribault River Paddle Information Sheet

Description: The upper part of the Ribault River is located near New Kings Road, running through Moncrief and into the Trout River. The river is named after French naval officer Jean Ribault. Ribault joined the French navy under the command of Huguenot admiral Gaspard de Coligny, who sent Ribault in 1562 on an expedition to create a colony in the New World. Start your trip heading up the river and turn around before getting to Old Kings Rd for a leisurely paddle down the Ribault River to the takeout. Considering it is in the middle of the greater Jacksonville area, it has a considerable amount of its shoreline wooded or marsh.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 6.7 Miles/3 Hours

Launch Site: Charles Reese Memorial Park Paddle Launch

Takeout Site: T. K. Stokes Public Boat Ramp

Special Considerations: This paddle requires shuttling vehicles. Recommend launching just before an outgoing tide.

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.