

S25 Day Paddles - St Johns River Western Watershed

Trout River Paddle Information Sheet

Description: The Trout River runs from Cisco Road, outside of Nassau County, to the St. Johns River near Panama Park. The Trout River splits near old Kings Road into the Trout River and Little Trout River. One major destination located along the Trout River is the Jacksonville Zoo, which is just past the takeout and under the Main St bridge. The Jacksonville Zoo covers approximately 117 acres and is home to almost 2500 animals. The zoo participates in nearly 50 national and international conservation initiatives and projects and has close to 15 exhibits, one of which is the Trout River Plaza Botanical Gardens. This garden is partially walled, which provides a wonderful view of the Trout River. Within the plaza, there is a large fountain, sculptures, mosaics, and of course, plants.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 7.3 Miles/4 Hours

Launch Site: Dinsmore Boat Landing Ramp

Takeout Site: Bert Maxwell Ramp

Special Considerations: This paddle requires shuttling vehicles. Paddling on an outgoing tide is recommended. Increased boat traffic near the mouth of the river. No bathrooms at the launch site.

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.