



A LITTLE PASCO COUNTY HISTORY

ARIPEKA: Dotted with several native American Indian mounds. A hunting and fishing destination for baseball legend Babe Ruth.

HUDSON: First settled in the 1870's and used as a railroad transport point for fish and lumber.

PORT RICHEY: Settled around 1860 and shipped fruits, vegetables and salt, to the northern states. Coastal stilt houses still stand and are unique to Florida's west coast - most were built for fishing and relaxation before 1945 on submerged land leased to the original owners by the Florida state government.

NEW PORT RICHEY: Settled around 1860 and developed during the great Florida land boom of the 20th century. Early silent-movie stars in the 1920's built homes, hotels and a Broadway-style stage along the Pithlachascotee River, some of which still remain.

BAILEY'S BLUFF: Used as a quarry for early American stone tools. Used as a safe anchorage for the sponge divers' boats from Cuba, Key West and the Bahamas in late 1800's.

ANCLOTE KEY: The last barrier island along the chain coming up along the Gulf coast from the south. A Florida State Park and a National Wildlife Reserve. The name originates from the Spanish term for "anchor". Known for its natural beaches and birding. The skeletal style lighthouse of 1887 was recently restored.

ANCLOTE RIVER: Used as a source of fresh water for early seafarers since the 1500's. Several Indian villages and freshwater wells/springs once dotted this area.



PREPARING FOR PADDLING ON THE COAST

Please follow these safety tips, before heading out on any paddling adventure:

WEAR A PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE (PFD)!

- Florida law requires a readily accessible Coast Guard approved PFD for each occupant. Children younger than six years-old are required to wear a PFD at all times.
- Know the waterway conditions and be aware of water levels and currents. Tides and winds can significantly affect the difficulty of a trip. Under normal conditions, allow a minimum of two miles per hour paddling time.

!CAUTION!
PAY ATTENTION TO TIDES WHEN PADDLING INLAND TRAILS – STRONG AND FAST CHANGING TIDAL CURRENTS MAY OCCUR.

FILE A FLOAT PLAN AND LEAVE IT WITH A RELIABLE PERSON.

- A float plan contains information about your trip in the event that you do not return as scheduled. This includes a description of the vessel(s), names of all paddlers, planned course and stops, and an estimated time of return. Ask the person to notify the Coast

Guard or local authorities if you do not return as scheduled. Don't forget to get in touch with your contact person and let them know when you return.

PACK IT IN PACK IT OUT.

- Bring plenty of food and water. Drinks should be in non-breakable containers. Food and gear should be stored in water-tight containers. For day trips, 1/2 gallon of water per person is recommended. For overnight trips, one gallon of water per person each day is recommended.
- Bring sunscreen and insect repellent. Wear sunglasses, a hat, water shoes, and long sleeve shirts and long pants even on cloudy days, this helps prevent sunburn and insect bites.

WATCH FOR MOTORBOATS.

- Keep to the right and turn into the boat's wake. Respect anglers by giving them plenty of room. **WEAR A WHISTLE.**

BRING A CELL PHONE OR VHF RADIO.

- Cell phones are great for staying in communication, but coverage may be sporadic depending on your specific location.

RESPECT WILDLIFE.

- Do not approach or harass wildlife, as they can be dangerous. It is also illegal to feed the wildlife.



PADDLING FEATURES AT WERNER-BOYCE SALT SPRINGS STATE PARK

Werner-Boyce Salt Springs State Park protects four miles of West Pasco coastline. Eight major creeks provide paddlers with an opportunity to explore pristine remote areas.

The four northern creeks, including **Lighter Bayou**, **Britches Creek**, **Doorshutter Creek**, and **Long Grassy Creek**, should only be attempted by experienced paddlers since there are no nearby launch points. Shallow water in the Gulf of Mexico near the mouths of these creeks require a high tide for entry – so always enter the creeks at an incoming tide.

Hope Bayou is a scenic labyrinth of creeks, bayous and mangrove passages. Plan your trip to arrive at the mouth of the creek at or near high tide. Werner-Boyce State Park maintains a remote campsite shelter at Hope Bayou.

Pound Net Creek and a smaller minor creek to its south, provide pleasant paddling through winding mangrove passages with sources at a tidal lake.

Double Hammock Creek and its tidal lake that branches off to the south, provides a challenging paddle including open water, narrow channels, and some swift tidal currents. The Westport boat channel extends through Double Hammock Creek...so watch out for boat traffic.

Salt Springs Run is a large creek extending from the Gulf to the State Park headquarters. Follow it upstream to Salt Spring – a 320 foot deep natural spring – or to Cauldron Spring, next to the State Park parking lot. A small, sometimes treacherous, winding creek called **"The Chute"** connects from Salt Springs Run to Double Hammock Creek. Finding the entrance to this waterway from either direction can be tricky – but if you take it with an incoming or outgoing tide, be prepared for an exciting ride! **(Only recommended at near high tide.)**

ROUTE DISTANCES

All distances are to the nearest 1/10 mile. Paddling distances are at low tide...slightly shorter routes may be available at high tide.

GULF LAUNCH POINTS:

- Sunwest Park to R.J. Strickland Memorial Park (Hudson Beach) **5.9 Mi**
- R.J. Strickland Memorial Park (Hudson Beach) to Werner-Boyce Salt Springs State Park (when launch site opens) **7.3 Mi**
- Werner-Boyce Salt Springs State Park to Brasher Park **1.5 Mi**
- Brasher Park to Durney Key **1.2 Mi**
- Brasher Park to Robert K. Rees Memorial Park (Green Key) **3.2 Mi**
- Robert K. Rees Memorial Park to Eagle Point Park **3.1 Mi**
- Eagle Point Park to Anclote Gulf Park **4.1 Mi**
- Anclote Gulf Park to Anclote River Park **2.0 Mi**

UP RIVER LAUNCH POINTS:

- Brasher Park to Oeslner Park **2.4 Mi**
- Park to Port Richey Waterfront Park **0.3 Mi**
- Port Richey Waterfront Park to Sims Park **2.3 Mi**
- Sims Park to Grand Boulevard Park **1.0 Mi**
- Grand Boulevard Park to Frances Avenue Park **0.6 Mi**
- Frances Ave. Park to James E. Grey Preserve **1.3 Mi**



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