

Sponge Point Primitive Camping

Description: Experience camping overnight on the Big Bend Saltwater Paddling Trail by joining a group paddling from Keaton Beach to Sponge Point, winding south about 3 miles between oyster bars along the shallow coastline. Pitch your tent beneath a canopy of live oaks, palms and a rare stand of mature cedars which frame a stunning open vista of the Gulf. Perfect spot to sling a hammock! Wildlife viewing and fishing is excellent in this area along with memorable sunsets. Remember your fishing gear, binoculars, and a camera. Prepare for bugs if the wind drops and keep an eye out for poison ivy. All participants must be gear/food/water independent. Please note this is **primitive** camping. Always practice "Leave No Trace" camping. Cars will be left overnight at the Keaton Beach County Park.

Distance/Time: 2.8 Miles/ 1.5 Hours

Skill Level: Intermediate/Advanced

Indigenous Wildlife: Eagles, ospreys, various shorebirds and waterfowl, mullet, redfish, spotted sea trout, raccoons, otters, bottle-nosed dolphins, blue crabs and horseshoe crabs.

Launch Site: Take CR 400 (Beach Road) north out of Steinhatchee, go about 18 Miles, after turning north from the river, to Keaton Beach. Turn left and follow the main road south to the County Park.

NOTE: Great care has been taken to ensure this guides accuracy, but weather, tides, and water conditions can change rapidly and create hazardous conditions. Routes may change due to weather considerations. Users should consult NOAA Charts for navigation. Paddlers should have all proper safety equipment and check conditions before departure. All participants are required to wear PFDs while on water based events .

