

OLD CEDAR KEY LOOP

Description: Launch from the Anchor Hole Boat Ramp used by clam farmers to get to their northern leases. Head east through back waters towards Number 3 Bridge and the large clam aquaculture facilities near the bridge. Paddle among forested islands and oyster bars past the old Cedar Key neighborhood of “Kiss Me Quick.” Continue through the back bayou and past the remaining pilings of the old trestle where David Levy Yulee’s Cedar Key to Fernandina railway crossed the water coming into town. Follow the channel past the Back Bayou waterfront of docks, fishing boats, clam facilities, and a variety of residences and business that still add to Cedar Key’s economy. Pass under Number 2 Bridge and past a marina, more seafood facilities, the historic Cedar Key Cemetery, Cemetery Point Boardwalk and Park, and finally back to the launch spot.

Distance/Time: 3 Miles/Approximately 1 1/2 to 2 hours

Skill Level: Intermediate. Navigation around oyster bars on low tides may be a concern.

Indigenous Wildlife: ospreys, various shorebirds and waterfowl, mullet, redfish, black drum, spotted sea trout, , bottlenose dolphins, blue crabs, and horseshoe crabs.

Launch Site: Anchor Hole Boat Ramp. Take Whidden Avenue off SR 24 in Cedar Key to Gulf Blvd proceed north on Gulf Blvd. then take a right on Hodges Ave. Ramp is at end.

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 have all proper safety equipment and check conditions before departure. All participants are required to wear PFDs while on water based events .

