

DAYS LANDING TO SPRING CREEK

(Trail #1)

Time: 2 – 3 hours

Distance: 6 miles

PADDLE DESCRIPTION

From the access at Day's Landing paddle north on Ball Creek towards Bay River passing Pasture Creek on the left and Cabin Creek on the right. Follow the southern shore of Bay River to the east toward Bonner Bay. Bear right and paddle across the mouth of Riggs Creek to the mouth of Spring Creek where there is a small beach on the right that will serve for a quick rest. Then it's up Spring Creek to the take-out on Whortonsville Road. Along the way you'll pass Bryan and Ives Creeks on your left, which can provide shelter on windy days, with Horton and Richardson Creeks on your right.

Before heading up Spring Creek you may opt to explore Long Creek and its tributaries, a remote and beautiful network of small quiet creeks. On Long Creek you can turn into Cow Gallus Creek and find at the rear a wide, forest-lined ditch that will provide a scenic shortcut to Bryan Creek and Spring Creek.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

Days Landing: From the Courthouse in Bayboro, follow NC-55 East about 5 miles to Florence Road. Turn left and go about 5-½ miles to Days Landing Rd (just past the firehouse). Turn left and follow the road to its end at Ball Creek (about ½ mile). Parking is available. There is a FEE BOX at this ramp.

Spring Creek: From NC-55 turn east on Florence Rd (SR-1324) and go about 6-½ miles to Day's Corner and turn right on Whortonsville Rd. Follow Whortonsville Rd (SR-1327) about 2 miles to Spring Creek.

RIGGS CREEK TO WHORTONSVILLE

(Trail #2)

Time: 6 - 8 hours

Distance: 12 - 14 miles

PADDLE DESCRIPTION

Put in on Riggs Creek at the roadside on Florence Road and paddle out Riggs Creeks and cross Bonner Bay to Davis Island Point. (This crossing may be rough in northeasterly winds.) Continue north and east along the shore past Bryant Point then east past Sheppen and Hogpen Creeks to Pine Tree Point.

The southerly paddle from here is exposed to large waves from the side if there is a brisk wind from the east. Staying near the shoreline, paddle past Yaupon Creek and a cove which harbors a wide ditch which offers a shortcut to Dipping Vat Creek and the southern end of Bonner Bay. Continue paddling along the shoreline past Deep Point, Maw Point then SSW past Maw Bay and Wading Creek. The latter is normally blocked by a large sand bar but invites landing and exploration. Or, continue on to Swan Island which is partly sheltered and offers an attractive lunch stop at the entrance to Swan Creek. The creek is a haven for waterfowl and offers many side creeks to explore.

From Swan Island, continue south to Piney Point which has room for primitive camping. Paddle west into Broad Creek and explore its many creeks (Green, Paris, Pittman, Burton, and Brown) as you head for the take-out at Point Marina on Coffee Creek. An optional access point is the Paradise Cove Marina located just off Burton Creek. This will shorten the paddle distance to about 12 miles.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

Riggs Creek: Take NC-55 about 5 miles south of Bayboro to Florence Road. (SR-1324). Turn left, proceed about 7.2 miles. The access is on the left side of Florence Road at the culvert.

Whortonsville: From NC-55 just north of Oriental turn east on Straight Road and go to the end (6 miles). Turn right on Browns Creek Road and go 1-1/2 miles to Old Lupton Road and turn right. Access is about 1/5 mile on left just past the fire hydrant.

Paradise Cove: Same directions as Whortonsville but proceed about 2-½ miles on Browns Creek/Whortonsville Roads to Paradise Shores Road. Turn right; proceed about a mile to the access which is at the marina that is located on the right side of the road.

SPRING CREEK

(Trail #3)

Time: 2 – 3 hours

Distance: 7-1/2 miles

PADDLE DESCRIPTION

This is majestic paddle trail, through some of the most pristine land in Pamlico County, is a favorite of local paddlers. All manner of flora and fauna abound in this area as do great stands of pine and cypress trees. Following Spring Creek to the confluence with Long Creek and Bonner Bay (3 miles) you'll paddle along a tree lined creek devoid of human structures save one house and one boat ramp. At the head of Spring Creek follow Long Creek for about 1-1/2 mile until you come to Cow Gallus Creek which takes you down a dark, shaded but wide canal to the rear of Bryan Creek (1/4 mile). Then it's a short 1/2 mile paddle back to Springs Creek and a 2 mile journey to the take-out.

Along this trail you'll have the opportunity to explore several of the side creeks – Richardson, Horton, Bryan, and Ives. Or, you may want to paddle to the far shore of Long Creek and peer into one of the local waterfowl impoundment areas to see if any of the feathered travelers of the Atlantic Flyway are present.

DIRECTIONS

Spring Creek: Take NC-55 about 5 miles south of Bayboro to Florence Road. (SR-1324). Turn left, proceed about 6-1/2 miles and turn right on Whortonsville Road. Proceed straight about 2 miles to the access at the Spring Creek Bridge.

SWAN ISLAND

(Trail #4)

Time: 2 – 3 hours

Distance: 7-1/2 Miles

Caution: This trail includes open-water paddling. Ensure you have a spray skirt with you and are experienced in paddling in changingswinds, tides and currents. This is a paddle trail for the experienced paddler but can be accomplished by beginning paddlers in calm winds and currents.

PADDLE DESCRIPTON

The start of this fantastic adventure starts at the Paradise Cove Marina at the foot of Paradise Shores Road in Whortonsville. After launching into Paradise Cove you head out to Burton Creek and Broad Creek before paddling east to the Neuse River (2-1/2 miles) and Piney Point. You may want to make a brief stop at Piney Point to see if you can find any pottery pieces from a long ago Indian campground. Back on the trail it's a 3/4 mile paddle to Swan Island where a sandy white beach beckons all to stop and enjoy the scenery of the area, the Neuse, and quite possibly some dolphins swimming nearby.

Leaving Swan Island all will paddle to the rear of Swan Creek (1-1/4 miles) to find one of the gated waterfowl impoundment canals. After negotiating the opening in the gate it's 600 yards to another gate, which must be negotiated, at the end of the canal. Along the way you may peer inside the waterfowl impoundment area (to your left) to see if any of the travelers of the Atlantic Flyway have stopped for a visit.

Exiting the waterfowl impoundment canal you enter Green Creek for a mile paddle to Broad Creek then another mile paddle back to Paradise Cove Marina.

Note: For more exploration, you may desire to view the famous River Dunes Subdivision from the waterside. The entrance is a canal across Broad Creek opposite Burton Creek. This is a 3 mile round trip adventure.

DIRECTIONS

Paradise Cove Marina: From NC-55 just north of Oriental turn east on Straight Rd and go to the end (6 miles). Proceed about 2-1/2 miles on Browns Creek/Whortonsville Roads to Paradise Shores Road. Turn right; proceed about a mile to the access which is at the marina that is located on the right side of the road

WHORTONSVILLE TO ORIENTAL

(Trail #5)

Time: 4 - 5 hours

Distance: 9 -11 miles

Caution: This paddle is exposed to easterly winds once in the Neuse River and should not be attempted when winds from the east are over 10 to 15 knots. There are a few small beaches but do not land at wooded beaches as old roots and stumps lay beneath the surface of the water and can be dangerous.

PADDLE DESCRIPTION

From either Whortonsville or Paradise Cove paddle into Broad Creek and follow the western shoreline towards the Neuse River. At Tonney Hill Point paddle to the right and enter the Neuse River. As you follow the shoreline towards Oriental you'll pass Cedar, Gum Thicket, Old House, Orchard, and Pierce Creeks. Old House and Orchard Creeks offer respite from the wind, a place to rest, and some nice paddling in their own right.

Just north of the Town of Oriental you'll come upon Whittaker Point. On the backside of Whittaker Point is a protected area where you can beach your craft and enjoy your lunch as you watch sailboats, power craft, and fishing boats ply the Neuse River.

Crossing Whittaker Creek, being vigilant for traffic in this busy sailing harbor, you can admire the old homes on the Oriental waterfront as you make your way to the jetty at Channel Marker #8 where you will turn and paddle west to the Robert Scott Bridge in Oriental. Paddle under the bridge and to the right to land at the Wildlife Ramp

DRIVING DIRECTIONS.

Whortonsville: From NC-55 just north of Oriental turn east on Straight Rd and go to the end (6 miles). Turn right on Browns Creek Rd and go 1-½ miles to Old Lupton Rd and turn right. Access is about 1/5 mile on left just past the fire hydrant.

Paradise Cove: See Swan Island (Trail #4) .

Oriental Wildlife Ramp: In Oriental, turn right off Broad St (NC-55) onto Hodges St and go west one block and turn left on Midyette St. The Wildlife Ramp is located about 1,000 yards down Midyette St.