

Oriental Paddle Trails

This is provided for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be used as an aid to navigation.

Distances given are approximate from either the Town Dock on Hodges Street in Oriental (Trails 1 – 7) or the Dawson Creek Wildlife Boat Ramp (Trails 8 – 10) and are round trip except where noted. The Oriental Wildlife Boat Ramp and Oriental Town Beach may also be used for water access.

Trail #1: Camp and Morris Creeks - 5 Miles

A nice quiet paddle that takes you to the backyards of Camp and Morris Creeks. Fish houses, boatyards, marinas (with plenty of boats) can be viewed. To your immediate right as you enter Morris Creek are the remains of an old trawler and a few minutes more paddling brings you to the remains of a train trestle for the trains which once serviced Oriental.

Trail #2: Smith Creek – 4 Miles

Boatyards, marinas, and nicely maintained homes and yards are featured. Horse stables are at the far end of Smith Creek.

Trail #3: Whittaker Creek – 5 Miles

Paddle along the Neuse River and then enter Whittaker Creek to enjoy a close up and personal look at boats in a boatyard and those tied up behind local homes. Whittaker Point makes a great lunch stop where you can view sailboats plying The Neuse.

Trail #4 – Pierce Creek – 8 Miles

An interesting “up the coast” paddle which explores the environs of Pierce Creek. Pull up to the ramp at Sea Harbor Yacht Club to use their picnic tables or stop at Whitaker Point for that lunch or snack break.

Trail #5 - Kershaw Creek – 6 Miles

Marinas and beautiful homes line this quiet creek. Plenty of opportunity to see many varieties of birds and flowers.

Trail #6 – Greens Creek – 6 Miles

Another beautiful gem to paddle. Similar to Kershaw Creek but less inhabited.

Trail #7 – Oriental to Dawson Creek – 8-1/2 Miles

Enjoy The Neuse and view the remains of docks ravaged by hurricanes past. The Styrontown Beach Road Park has comfort facilities. Numerous sandy beaches to land for a repast or just to soak up some “rays”.

Trail #8 – Tarklin Creek – 3-1/2 Miles

Do you enjoy viewing cypress groves, beaver dams, and shy ducks and ducklings? This is the paddle for you.

Trail #9 – Dawson Creek – 8 Miles

Nice side trips for your exploration including Deep Run and Granny Gut where you can see the remains of Mill Dam – the site of an old grist mill.

Trail #10 – Dawson Creek to Ferry Terminal – 7-1/2 Miles

Sandy beaches make for great repast pullouts. Watch out for the children at the Day Camps as they try their hand at sailing and boating. Comfort facilities at the Ferry Terminal. When combined with Trail #7 you have a nice **one-way** 9 mile paddle from Oriental to the Ferry Terminal.

On these paddling adventures you may see all manner of birds, waterfowl, fish and species of vegetation.

It is not uncommon to be joined by a dolphin or two!