

Paddle Punta Gorda



11/17/2018 8:00 a.m.



Your \$30 registration fee includes the guided tours, a t-shirt, lunch and free beer afterward at Laishley Park Marina, 120 Laishley Ct, Punta Gorda. Registration is now open and continues until all 140 spots are filled or by 11/10/18. Your choice of routes will be determined by availability with 20 paddlers for each of the seven guided tours. Act quickly to insure that your preferred route is still open. To register, go to <https://form.jotform.com/nanseacay/PaddlePuntaGorda>. You can pay by PayPal or by check at TEAM Punta Gorda, 227 Sullivan St., Punta Gorda, FL 33950.

Choose one from seven naturalist-guided routes:

Pick your first, second and third choice. Only twenty paddlers permitted on each route.

#1 Alligator Creek (2 hours) The waters are tidal and offer adventurous mangrove tunnels, open coves and open water. Eagles, Osprey and Herons are among the many species of birds that frequent the area. Dolphin and stingrays are common in the creek. The launch is located within the Windmill Village at 215 Rio Villa Dr.

#2 Lettuce Lake. (2-2.5 hours) This paddle is for all skill levels. You will paddle through tidal water on the south side of the Peace River and areas of lake flat water. The area surrounds islands of vegetation with birds, turtles and alligators. Launch is located at 8801 SW Reese St., Arcadia to the west of a manufactured home/RV community.

#3. Peace River at Nav-A-Gator. (2-2.5 hours) This route is slow moving tidal water with a wide open paddle around woody and marshy islands. Interesting flora and fauna surround the waterway as well as many species of birds. It is suitable for all skill levels. The launch is located to the west of the Nav-A-Gator Grill, 9700 SW Riverview Cir.

#4. Ponce DeLeon Park (2.5 hours) This paddle meanders through beautiful mangrove tunnels. It is tidal and borders on Charlotte Harbor. Birds, crabs and other wildlife are abundant. Occasionally dolphin and manatee have been spotted. The park is located at 3400 Ponce DeLeon Pkwy, Punta Gorda.

#5. Shell Creek (2 hours) This paddle is a favorite of many local paddlers. The Creek is wide and slow moving. Vegetation is lush and varied. There is an abundance of birds and turtles with an occasional alligator sunning on the banks. Shell Creek launch is located in Hathaway Park, 35301 Washington Loop Rd, Punta Gorda.

#6. Sunrise Park (2 hours) Located on Little Alligator Creek/Sunrise Waterway. This is a protected water paddle with a good opportunity to see birds. The water is considered brackish with a typical tidal influence. This trail will involve a portion of Florida's Blueway Trail system. The launch is located at 20499 Edgewater Dr., Port Charlotte.

#7. Webb Lake Babcock (2 hours) Paddle on a long smooth fresh water lake surrounded by pine trees, wildflowers and wildlife. The lake is stocked with fish which attracts many birds. Sighting of eagles and alligators is common. It is a state park with restroom and picnic area (fees may apply). It is located at 29200 Tuckers Grade, Punta Gorda.

Upon completion of your paddle adventure, continue on to Laishley Park for lunch, free beer, a speaker on topic and raffle prizes. You'll mingle with other paddlers from each of the tours and exchange stories. Then be sure to wander to the other side of the park for CHNEP's Nature festivities. All proceeds of the Paddle event go TEAM Punta Gorda's Maritime Committee's conservation and new kayak launch initiatives.

Any questions, contact TEAM Punta Gorda at team@teampuntagorda.org or 941-637-TEAM