





Tomoka River Paddling Trail Guide



The Waterway

This scenic river features a wide variety of natural communities, from the narrow canopied waterway upstream of SR 40 to the wide, coastal marsh-lined river around Tomoka State Park.

The Paddling Experience

The Tomoka River is generally suitable for beginners. River access is very limited considering its length and proximity to populated areas. Three areas, the SR 40 Bridge, Riverbend Nature Park, and the US 1 Bridge, no longer provide access to the river. Winds and tidal influence become stronger as the river widens and nears Tomoka State Park, plan trips accordingly. Boat traffic on this river can be heavy during holidays and weekends. Paddlers can launch from Tomoka State Park or the Tomoka Boat Ramp for a round trip in either direction. It is about 13 miles upstream from the state park to the end of the river.

Access Points

#1, Tomoka River State Park



The Tomoka and busy Halifax River (Intracoastal Waterway) border this peninsula park. There is a handlaunch facility for paddlers. From I-95, take exit 268 for SR 40 towards Ormond Beach. Drive east on SR 40/W. Granada Blvd. for 4.3 mi. to the traffic light at the west end of the Ormond Bridge over the Halifax River. Turn left (north) before the bridge (don't cross the river) onto N. Beach St. and proceed 4.1 mi. north to the park's main entrance on the right (east) side of the road.

#2, Tomoka Boat Ramp, 397 Palm Avenue



This is a small quarter acre park with paved boat ramp and very limited parking, only space for five cars with boat trailers. No fees. From US 1 turn east on Coquina Avenue, then right on Palm Avenue, small park is on the right.

Outfitters and Shuttle Service

Tomoka State Park has canoe and kayak rentals, 386-673-0022



Tomoka River Paddling Trail Guide



Base Camp

Tomoka State Park is a site on the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail, and a bird-watcher's paradise, especially during the spring and fall migrations. The park protects a variety of wildlife habitats and endangered species, such as the West Indian manatee. Visitors can stroll a half mile nature trail through a hardwood hammock that was once an indigo field for an 18th century British landowner. Native Americans once dwelled here, living off fish-filled lagoons. The high ground now occupied by the state park was once the site of the Timucuan Native American village of Nocoroco. Explorer Alvaro Mexia became the first European to visit Nocoroco in 1605. In the late 1700s the area became part of a 22,000 acre rice and indigo plantation. Tomoka State Park with its sister park Bulow Creek make up over 8 miles of the scenic drive known as the Ormond Scenic Loop. A boat ramp gives boaters and paddlers access to the Halifax River (Intracoastal Waterway) and Tomoka River. Canoe and kayak rentals are available. For overnight stays, the park has full-facility campsites and youth camping.



Upper end of Tomoka, FWC



Chief Tomokie statue, Kristin Lock



Lower Tomoka, FWC



Tomoka State Park, Vera Jordan