



**Florida Designated
Paddling Trails**
Lake Kissimmee State Park
Buster Island Loop

OSCEOLA

**Buster Island Loop
Paddling Trail**

POLK

CAMP MACK DR

MAMMOTH GROVE RD

Alcoma

Hesperides

Nalcrest
Fedhaven

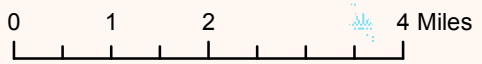
60

Lake
Weohyakapka

Indian Lake Estates

630

- Designated Paddling Trail
- Wetlands
- Water
- Designated Paddling Trail Index



Lake Kissimmee State Park Buster Island Loop Paddling Trail



Access Point 1:
N: 27.9431 W: -81.3559

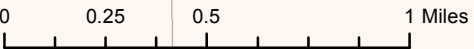
Access Point 2:
N: 27.9429 W: -81.3533

Canal Entrance:
N: 27.9389 W: -81.3455

Rosalie Creek Entrance:
N: 27.9184 W: -81.3861

Tiger Creek Entrance:
N: 27.9108 W: -81.3550

	Buster Island Loop Paddling Trail
	Improved Launch
	Canoe/Kayak Launch
	Picnic Facilities
	Restrooms
	Florida State Park Boundaries
	Florida Conservation Lands
	Wetlands





Buster Island Loop Paddling Trail Guide

The Waterway

[Lake Kissimmee State Park](#) is remote and unspoiled, offering endless reflecting waters, stunning stars in dark skies, and excellent fishing. Paddlers encircle Buster Island, nestled between vast lakes that bracket the park. The park is also a hiker and equestrian's delight with miles of trails winding between moss-draped live oak. The paddling loop meanders through the Zipperer Canal, Lake Rosalie, Rosalie Creek, Tiger Lake, Tiger Creek, and Lake Kissimmee before returning to the boat marina. An outfitter at the marina offers boat rentals, fishing advice and Segway tours. Pine flatwoods, oak hammocks and freshwater marsh burst forth in the fall and spring with an abundance of wildflowers that splash vibrant colors along the waterways. The diverse habitat, a part of the headwaters of the Everglades, offers excellent wildlife viewing opportunities for the quiet and observant visitor. The park is a site on the [Great Florida Birding Trail](#).

The Paddling Experience

The 11-mile Buster Island Loop begins and ends within [Lake Kissimmee State Park](#). The trail is a loop, however the endpoints of the trail are a short distance apart due to a water structure. The trail is suitable for intermediate paddlers due to the distance, tight turns on Rosalie Creek and potential winds encountered on the large lakes. Beginners are welcome to launch and paddle a short distance either direction from the marina, most paddle to Lake Kissimmee and back. During dry spells the trail may not have enough water for pleasant paddling. Call the park office at 863-696-1112 to inquire. Because of potentially strong currents on Rosalie Creek it is recommended to begin the trip heading west on the Zipperer Canal and circling Buster Island counter-clockwise to end back at the marina. The boat marina offers a universally accessible kayak launch and boat ramp with camp store, restrooms, outfitter, and ample parking. Paddlers should pay attention to approaching airboats, especially on Tiger Creek, as they have limited vision of kayaks around blind corners. Cling to the outside banks and wave paddle overhead to alert them to your presence.

Access Points

#1, Start and end point of the trail



Paddlers launch just next to the road bridge that accesses the traditional cowboy camp, a short distance from the marina parking lot. The trail is a loop begins and ends at the marina, however the endpoints of the trail are a short distance apart due to a water structure. The trail ends at the accessible paddling launch at the marina.

Outfitters and Shuttle Service

The [Marina Cantina](#) offers common camping sundries, snacks and drinks, and recreation equipment rentals.



Buster Island Loop Paddling Trail Guide

Base Camp

[Lake Kissimmee State Park](#) is an excellent destination for adventure and immersion in quiet, natural beauty. During weekends Florida's cowboy heritage comes alive with living history demonstrations of the early Florida "cow hunters" in an 1876-era cow camp. The Cow Camp is open for the winter from October 1st through May 1st on Saturdays and Sundays from 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. White-tailed deer, bald eagles, sandhill cranes, turkeys, and bobcats have been seen in the park, located on the shores of lakes Kissimmee, Tiger, and Rosalie. Visitors enjoy boating, canoeing, and fishing in the picturesque lakes. Explore over 13 miles of trails on foot, bike, or join a Segway tour to observe and study the abundant plant and animal life. Six miles of trails are open to equestrians. A large, shaded picnic area with pavilions is available. The park has full-facility campsites, as well as a primitive camping facility. The youth camping area can accommodate up to 50 people. The dark skies make stargazing a popular nighttime activity for campers.

History

During the Civil War the area was used for raising cattle that were shipped to the Confederate Army or traded with Cuba for supplies. After the war, cattle became the main industry and this continues to the present day. In 1969, the state of Florida purchased 5,030 acres of land from the William Zipperer estate for use as a state park. Lake Kissimmee State Park was opened to the public in August 1977.

