



The Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail



Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental
Protection





Circumnavigational Trail History

Late 1980s - Idea conceived by paddler David Gluckman after establishment of the Maine Island Trail

2005 - Pursuant to Chapter 260, the "Florida Greenways and Trails Act," the Florida Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) was given the responsibility for developing and coordinating a circumnavigational saltwater paddling trail around the entire state of Florida and naming 26 individual trail segments.

2007 – Mapping and segment guides complete. Trail is designated a national recreation trail.

2008 - First thru paddlers complete the trail.

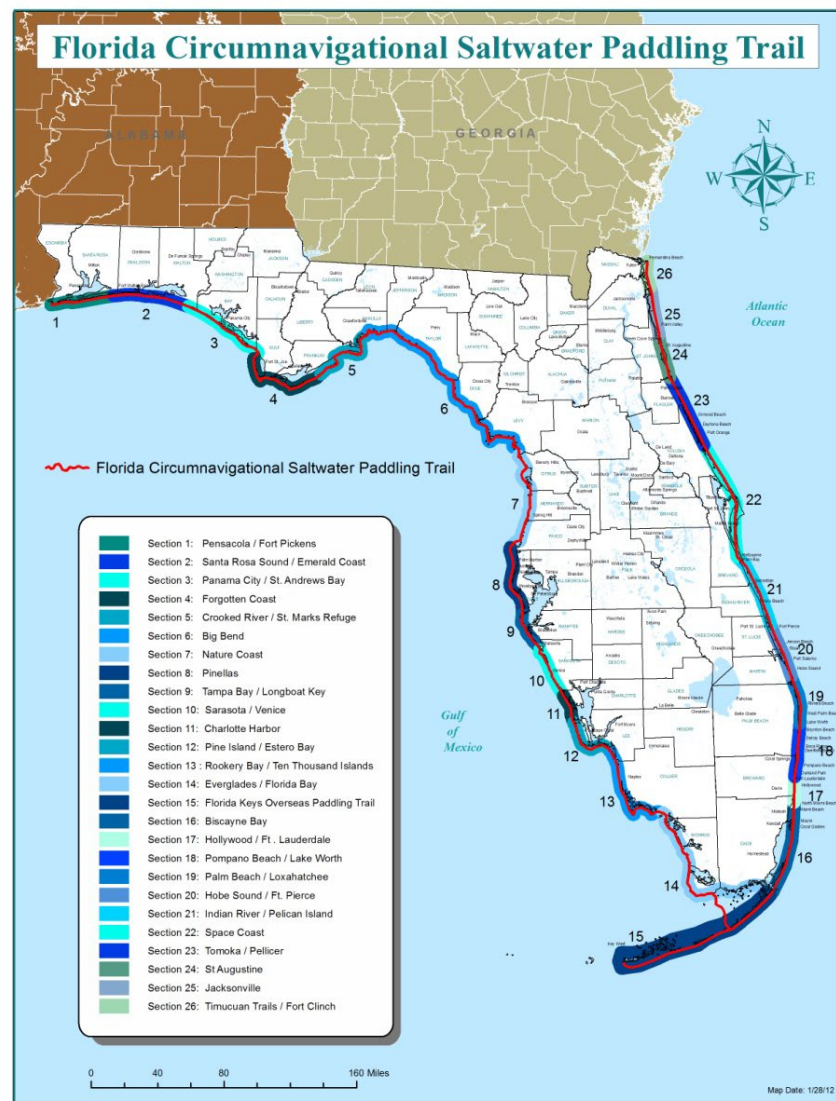


Trail mapping occurred from 2005-2007



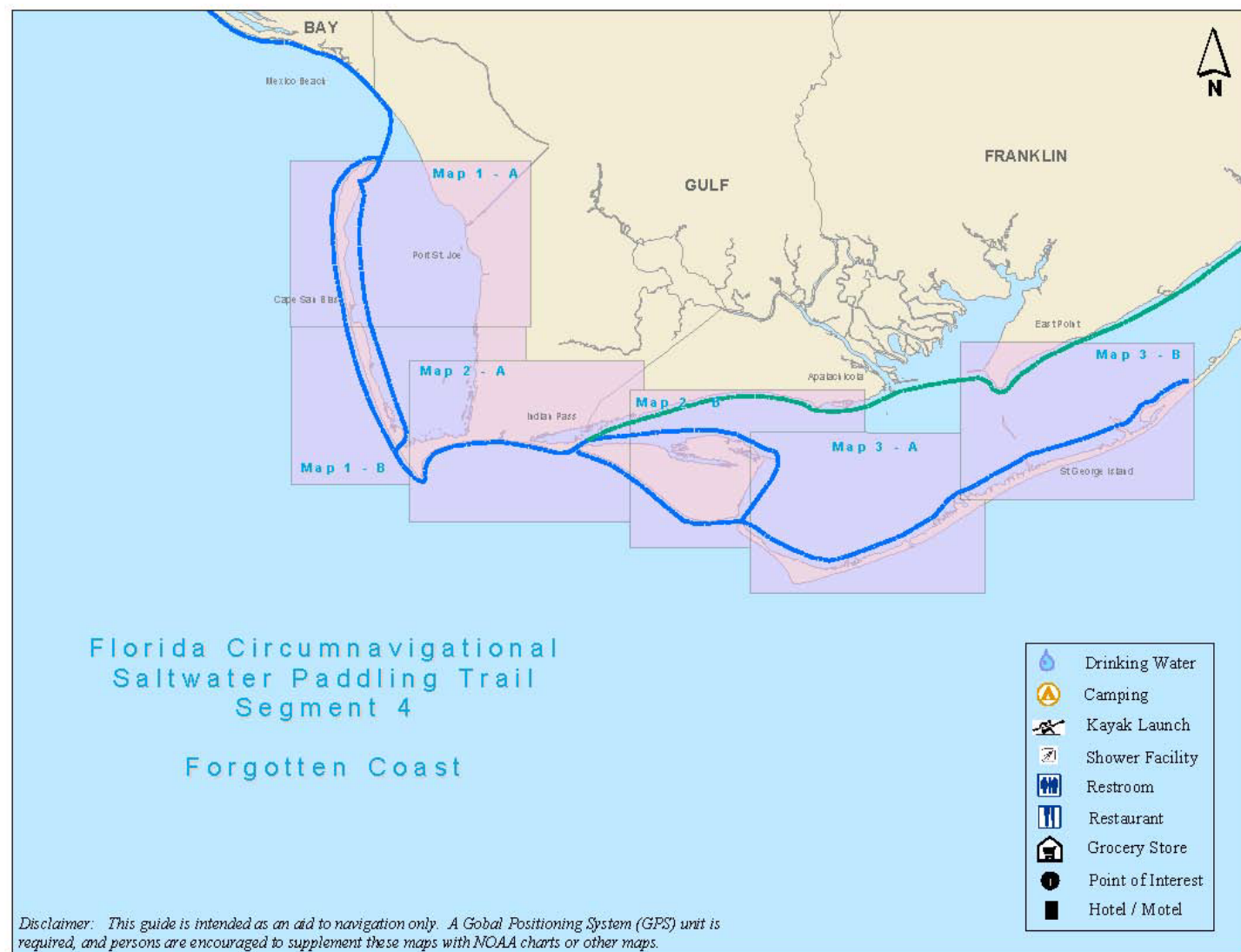


1,515 Miles from Pensacola to Key West to the Georgia border



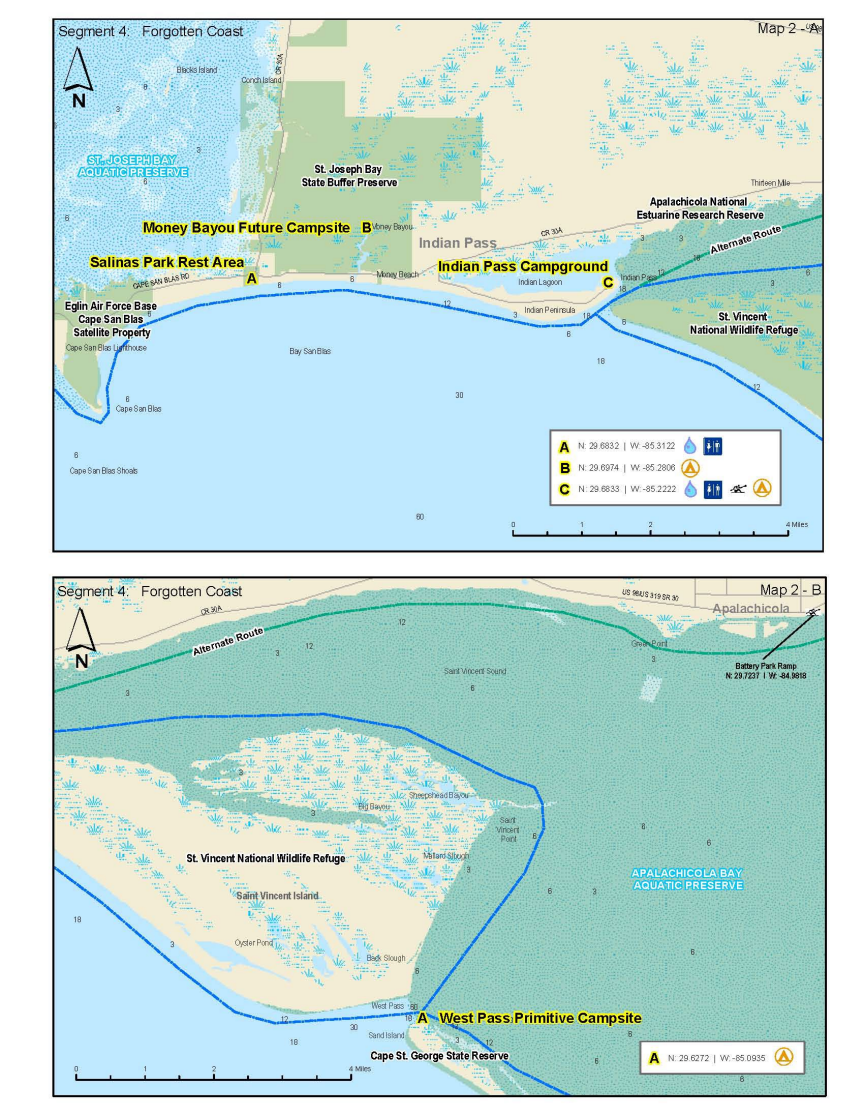
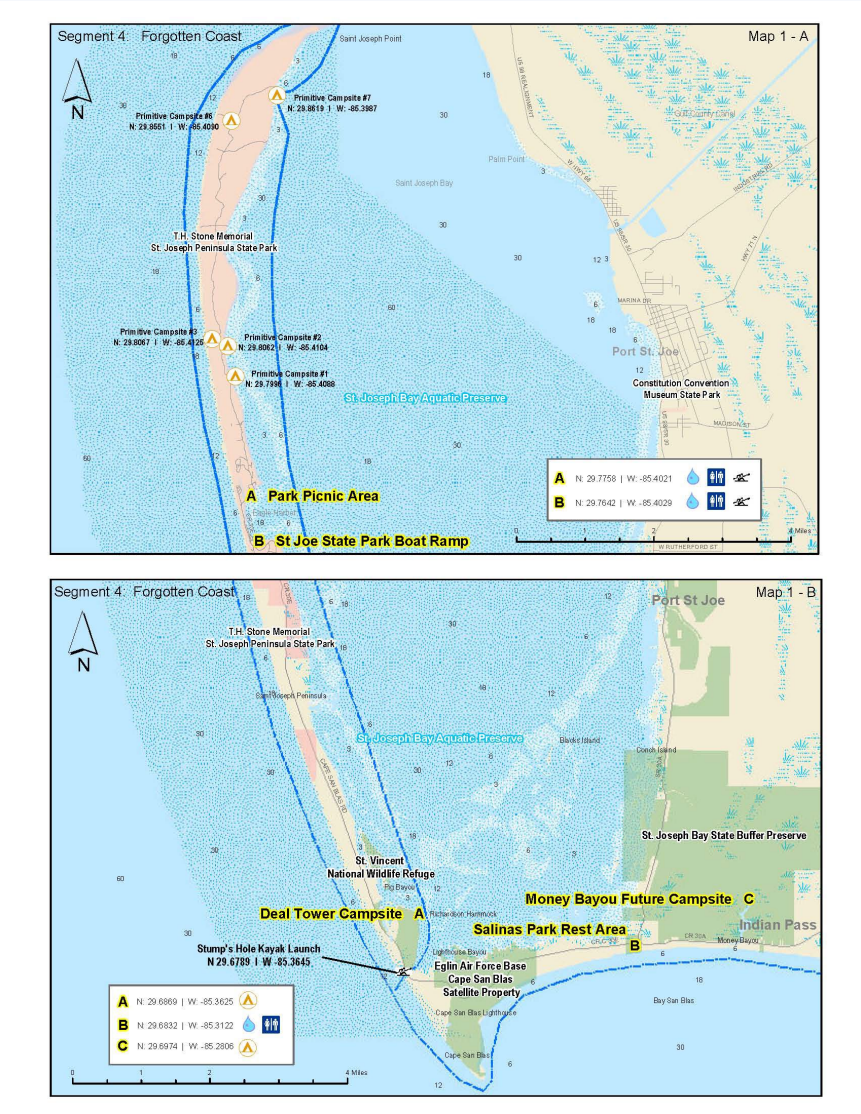


Each segment includes an index map...





And individual maps covering 10-15 mile sections. Key junctions and locations are marked by GPS coordinates





Trail guides feature 90 primitive campsites and 48 campgrounds...





40 coastal motels and resorts...





15 post offices, 19 medium to large supermarkets, 28 small stores, and numerous restaurants...





And numerous points-of-interest





Benefits

- Promotes Tourism
- Physical Fitness
- Environmental Awareness
- Sense of Place





Trail guides promote Leave No Trace Principles



- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimize campfire impacts
- Respect wildlife
- Be considerate of other visitors



A blue kayak is shown on a gravel surface, with its hatch open. A yellow dry bag is placed inside the cockpit. Various pieces of gear are laid out on a blue tarp in front of the kayak. This includes two purple paddles, one lying diagonally across the tarp and another horizontally at the bottom. There are two open toolboxes, one orange and one red, containing various tools. Other items include a black mesh storage basket, a small silver pot on a stand, a black mesh bag, a white bottle of sunscreen, a black bag, a red bag, a pair of black shoes, a clear plastic bag, and several smaller bags and containers. The background consists of a gravel area with some fallen leaves.



Paddlers should be prepared for all types of conditions





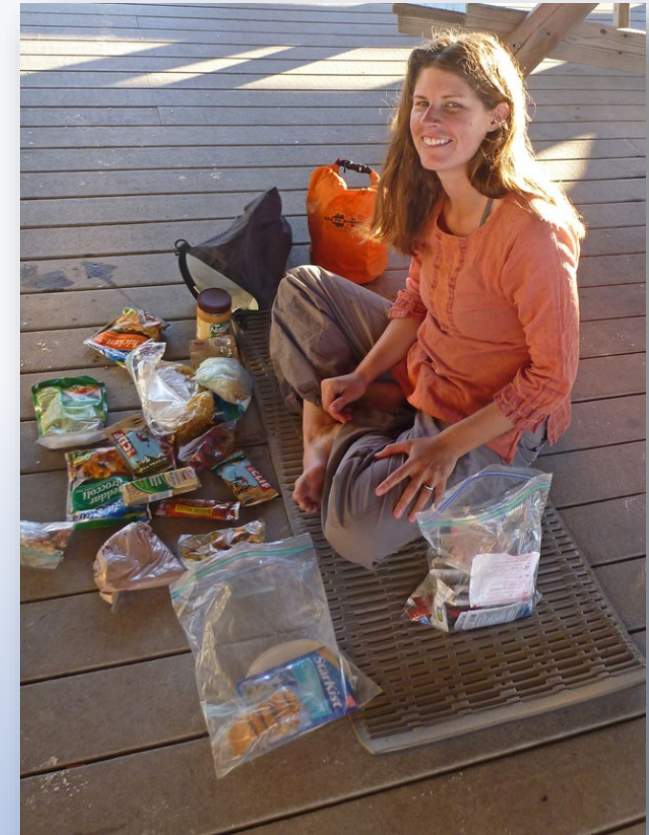
While most users paddle short distances, long-distance paddlers find it to be a journey of a lifetime





Scott Warren,
2017 thru
paddler, before
and after





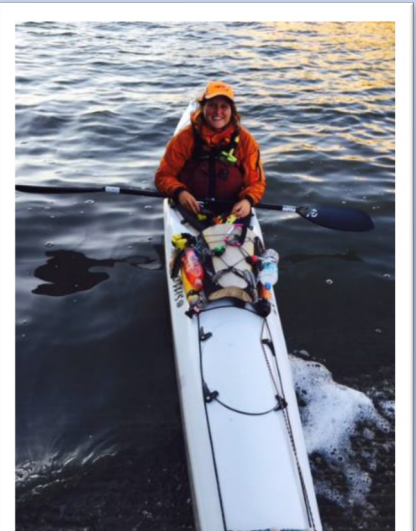
"The trail is amazing! It goes through so many different ecosystems. How the beaches change along the trail is just incredible. The trail made me a stronger paddler and it also redefined who I am in a way, bringing me back to the essence of being human. It's a powerful experience to go through."
--Jodi Eller



CT Thru Paddlers

<https://www.floridapaddlingtrails.com/ct-hall-of-fame>

The number grows every year!





The Florida Paddling Trails Association Volunteer Stewards of the Circumnavigational trail





The Florida Paddling Trails Association Trail Angel Network. More than 40 members.



"When you were totally exhausted and about to lose hope after a hard day on the CT...Bam! A Trail Angel would show up to offer a ride or share a meal. Uncanny how that kept happening". – Marc Deluca, CT 2014





Annual Trail Reunions





Big Lagoon State Park—western terminus





Henderson
Beach
Topsail Hill
Grayton Beach
Deer Lake
Camp Helen
St. Andrews



Forgotten Coast— barrier islands and Old Florida





The 160-mile Big Bend Saltwater Paddling Trail from the Aucilla River to Yankeetown





The Nature Coast



The Pinellas
segment--
natural and
spoil islands
for
exploration
and camping





Southwest Florida: premier islands and parks





**And the trail
incorporates
several
county
blueway
systems**



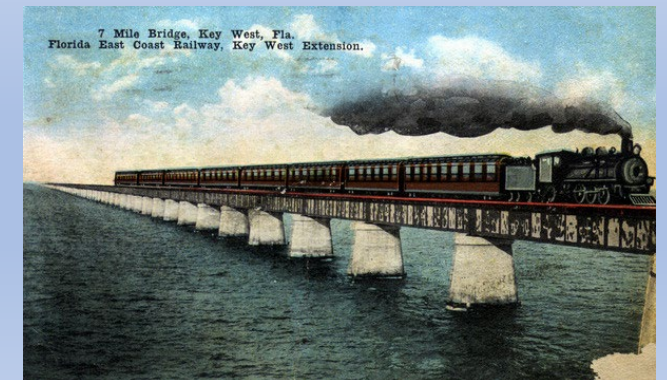
The Ten Thousand Islands/Ever- glades, wild and rich in history







The unique Florida Keys segment





Biscayne Bay is another popular stretch





Southeast
Florida--scenic
parks and
historic sites in
a largely urban
setting



**Unique
attractions in
southeast
Florida**





The trail
includes the
entire Indian
River Lagoon







The Halifax
and Matanzas
rivers
offer several
scenic
stretches





Northeast Florida offers history and beauty





Eastern terminus: Old Fernandina/Ft. Clinch State Park





The trail's success depends on volunteers and cooperative public and private land managers





Some of the many public partners who have helped to develop, maintain and promote the CT

