



What's New on the Circumnavigational Trail

June, 2019

- After an OGT site visit, the Turtle Creek primitive campsite has been restored to the segment 6 guide as part of the Waccasassa Bay Preserve State Park. An extra GPS coordinate at the mouth of Turtle Creek Bay will help to guide paddlers.
- The Buena Vista Motel in Mexico Beach was destroyed by Hurricane Michael and will not be rebuilt, but the El Governor Motel is being rebuilt and may reopen in late 2020.
- The western part of St. Joseph Peninsula State Park, including the campgrounds and primitive campsites, will remain closed until further notice.
- Campsites along the Crooked River in Tate's Hell State Forest can now be reserved [online](#) or by phone--877-879-3859.

February, 2019

- A public dock along the Intracoastal Waterway in Hugh Taylor Birch State Park is now open, making for a good rest stop.
- The Kelly Creek primitive campsite in the Waccasassa Bay Preserve State Park is temporarily closed for maintenance.

January, 2019

- St. Andrews State Park has reopened 30 campsites and expects to open 30 more next month.
- Camping at Long Key State Park is still closed. Some primitive campsites may open by mid-summer. Check with the park after July 1.

December, 2018

- Another camping option on Big Pine Key is [Camp Sawyer](#), owned and operated by the Boy Scouts of America. It is available for camping based on availability with advanced confirmed reservations. Please adhere to [Camp Sawyer rules](#) so it remains available. Contact Cliff Freiwald, Program Director, 305-364-0020 x 213; Cliff.Freiwald@Scouting.org.

November, 2018:

- Matheson Hammock along Biscayne Bay, part of CT Segments 15-16 Alternate Route, is no longer available for primitive camping. Oleta River State Park at the end of Segment 16 no longer has primitive camping, so kayakers must reserve a park cabin if they choose to stay at the park.

October, 2018:

- Hurricane Michael severely impacted segments 3, 4 and 5, destroying or closing motels in Mexico Beach and Panama City and state parks such as St. Andrews, St. Joseph Peninsula and St. George Island. Paddlers are advised to take the ICW alternate route from Choctawhatchee Bay to Apalachicola. Around Panama City and St. Andrews State Park, paddlers need to take advantage of the Florida Paddling Trails Association trail angel network for overnight assistance (Dan Thompson; w4uh@bellsouth.net). The towns of Apalachicola, Eastpoint, Carrabelle, Panacea and St. Marks are slowly recovering from storm surge damage. CT paddlers should not try to tackle this stretch until December or later to allow for more recovery.

August, 2018:

- Overnight camping is closed until October 1 for Round Key, Coon Key and Panther Key (Segment 13) due to turtle nesting.
- Overnight parking guide for the CT is now available on the CT page.

July, 2018:

- Princess Place Preserve Campground (Segment 23) has re-opened.

May, 2018:

- Camping information for Bald Point State Park (segment 5) has been updated. Primitive camping is still available along Chaires Creek, but no longer at the bridge site. The official park launch is now at Tucker Lake. The grocery store in Panacea is closed.

April, 2018:

- Keaton Beach Marina and Motel (segment 6) is closed.
- Harry Harris Park in the Keys has partially reopened.

- A [temporary visitor contact station](#) at Everglades National Park in Everglades City is open. Still be prepared to bring your own fresh water.

January, 2018: The [6th edition](#) of the printed CT Guide has been released and is available on Amazon.

- The Buttonwood and Bayside Campgrounds at Bahia Honda State Park (Segment 15) have reopened. Campsite #80 can be used by paddlers and bicyclists on short notice.
- The campground at Curry Hammock State Park (Segment 15) has reopened.
- Harry Harris Park in the Keys (Segment 15) is closed until further notice.
- Geiger Key Marina in the Keys (939.5 and 967.5) no longer allows for tent camping. With the temporary closure of the Sugarloaf Key KOA (until October 2018) there is currently a gap of 33+ miles between Bahia Honda and Boyd's Campground where no legal camping is allowed.
- The ramp at Bert Winters Park in Jupiter is closed for renovation through October of 2018 (Segment 19, Mile 1205.9).

December, 2017: The launch in Everglades City is open, but the Visitor's Center is still closed. The water spigot there is not working.

GPS coordinates around Keewaydin Island in Segment 13 are being adjusted.

11/14/17: Most backcountry campsites in Everglades National Park have reopened and can only be reserved in Flamingo. Check out this web page for details: <https://www.nps.gov/ever/planyourvisit/backcamp.htm>. The

Visitor's Center and launch in Everglades City is still closed. Campsites north of Broad River are first come, first served.

CT Overnight Changes, 11/13/17, due to Hurricane Irma and other factors

Mile 48.8 (Segment 2): Bayside Inn is now Roya Hotel & Suites

Mile 249 (Segment 5): Ochlockonee River State Park. Campground being renovated until January 1, 2018. Call park directly to check on availability of youth camp – 850-962-2771

Mile 499.2 (Segment 7): Riverpoint Landing Motel closed. Suggest using Mary's Fish Camp nearby.

Mile 598.6: (Segment 9) Bradenton Beach Econolodge is now Club Bamboo South and numerous other lodging options exist in area:
http://sarasota.lodgingguide.net/bradenton_beach_lodging.htm.

.9 mile east of Mile 689.8 (Segment 12): Sun and Moon Inn in Matlacha closed, but other options exist nearby:
<http://pineislandchamber.org/lodging-campgrounds/>. Bridgewater Inn is now point of reference: <http://www.bridgewaterinn.com/>. N26.6333 82.0669.

Segment 14: All Everglades National Park Campsites closed until further notice

Mile 880 (Segment 15): Long Key State Park – Campsite reservations closed through December 31, **2018**.

Mile 903 (Segment 15): Knight's Key Campground permanently closed.

(Segment 15): Sugarloaf Key KOA – not expected to reopen until October, 2018. <https://koa.com/campgrounds/sugarloaf-key/>.

Mile 1173.4 (Segment 18): Highland Beach Holiday Inn is now Delray Sands Resort: <https://www.delraysandsresort.com/>.

Mile 1253.6 (Segment 20): Microtel Motel near Veteran's Park.

Mile 1335.3 (Segment 22): Manatee Hammock Campground—partially closed/open due to Hurricane Irma. Call 321-264-5083 for reservations.

Princess Place Preserve (Segment 23 1.3 miles up Pellicer Creek): temporarily closed due to Hurricane Irma.

Huguenot Memorial Park (Segment 26, 3.2 miles south of route): Campground temporarily closed due to hurricane.

July 2017

San Carlos Resort was removed from the Segment 12 guide because they no longer allow for tent camping and they require a 3-day stay.

May 2017

Mary's Fish Camp in Segment 7 near Bayport has re-opened (map 3B). The facility rents cabins, tent space, and it has a small store.

April 2017

In Segment 4, the fire tower along St. Joe Bay near the Deal Tract campsite has been removed. The campsite is now on the concrete pad where the fire tower once stood.

March 2017

More primitive campsite options as part of the Rookery Bay Preserve have been added to maps 2B, 3A and 3B in Segment 13.

August 2016

The Canaveral National Seashore within Segment 22 now offers camping permits [online](#). This is a big improvement of former requirement to paddle to the ranger station during office hours and obtain a permit, allowing for more campsite options from either direction. The 14 different campsites are featured on the trail maps.

March 2016

The primitive campsite at Carrabelle Beach, segment 5, Map 1A, is no longer available. Revised text and maps can be found online.

February 2016

Beginning March 14th 2016, John Pennekamp staff will be closing the Garden Cove kayak camp in Segment 15 for approx. 90 days due to restoration activities in and along the canal next to the camp.

January 2016:

The fifth edition of the CT printed guide is available on [Amazon](#). New in this 330-page paperback is information about alternate routes in the Panhandle and Keys.

December 2015:

There is now an alternate route available in the Keys from Flamingo to Miami. The trail hugs the mainland, providing a more sheltered option when winds and weather are not favorable. New limited camping options have been established at Shark Point, Nest Key, Card Point, Homestead Bayfront Park, and Matheson Hammock Park.

Two new campsite opportunities have been added to the CT, one in Segment 7 and one in Segment 9:

Segment 7 near Anclote Key: a sheltered option along the coastline has been added at Eagle Point Park where local Eagle Scouts built a platform for an overnight stop. There is platform with corner posts to hang tarps, tents etc., along with a fire ring and picnic table. There is a restroom on site, but visitors need to walk about 100 yards. Call and get confirmation to stay overnight and ask for the restrooms to be left unlocked/open. Phone number is 727-834-3278.

Segment 9: After crossing Tampa Bay, you have two route options at Anna Maria Island. In good weather, you can paddle around the island on the Gulf side, or you can paddle along the Intracoastal Waterway through Anna Maria Sound and Sarasota Bay. There are opportunities for bathroom breaks on both sides of the barrier islands as there are numerous public county beaches, boat launches, and

private marinas. There is an option for primitive camping at scenic [Robinson Preserve](#) by reservation on Friday and Saturday nights only, call 941-742-5923. Access is limited to paddle craft only (canoe/Kayak) and there is no vehicle access to camp sites. The historic Valentine House is a visitors' center worth touring along with the Preserve's hiking trails, picnic pavilions, and observation tower. Paddlers can also find motel lodging at either Holmes Beach or Bradenton Beach on the Gulf side.

November 2014: The new inland Panhandle route for CT Segments 2-4, Destin to Apalachicola, is now available for download.

July 2014: The fourth edition of the CT Trail Guide (text only) has been uploaded to Amazon for print on demand. Also many updates to on-line maps and segment guides were recently completed. GPX and KML files are also now available on-line

July 2014: Segment 16, Elliot Key NPS campsite has reopened

May 2014: An alternate 'inland' route is being developed from Destin to Apalachicola, Segments 2-3. The goal is to create a safe alternative to the current coastal route that includes a 25+mile paddle from St. Andrews State Park in Panama City to Mexico Beach along the Gulf. Efforts are underway to identify sites along Choctawhatchee Bay, the ICW, and West & East Bays surrounding Panama City, and eastward on the ICW to Apalachicola. Information should be available by late September. Contact Liz Sparks at liz.sparks@dep.state.fl.us with suggestions and questions.

April 2014: Bill Baggs State Park now available to paddlers on Segment 16:

Boca Chita Key to Teacher's Island, 21 Miles (staying at Bill Baggs shortens distance by 10 miles)

Paddlers have several options to reach Teacher's Island, which is near the mainland. The most direct route in calm weather is to head straight north and explore tiny Soldier Key, Stiltsville, followed by the Cape Florida Lighthouse at Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park, and then cut across. It is possible to make this segment shorter by staying at the State Park at the youth camp if you make prior arrangements by calling 305-361-8779, M-F 8-4:30. The camp site is primitive with no restrooms, shelters or power. When the park is closed (between sunset and 8:00 a.m.), campers must remain in the youth camp. No after-hours access to the park will be granted during sea turtle nesting season - May 1st through October 31st. If arriving from the beach side go to the northern end where warning flags are posted. A long boardwalk leads to restrooms and showers. To access the campsite cross the parking lot and go west 0.5 miles on Harbor Rd. You can also access the park from No Name Harbor, but you'll have to climb over a seawall. You can secure kayaks to the bike rack near the restaurant and then carry gear 0.2 mile east to youth camp.

February 2014: Werner-Boyce Salt Springs State Park, Segment 7: The Salt Springs Alliance and the West Coast Airboat Club have recently completed a pavilion at the Hope Bayou primitive camp along the Florida Circumnavigation Saltwater Paddling Trail. The project was financed through fundraising by the CSO and constructed by volunteers.

February, 2014: Segment 4: St Joe St Park has eliminated two wilderness campsites that were difficult for paddlers to access. Sites 2,3 & 7 are still available and must be reserved by calling 850-227-1327.

Segment 4: There is a second primitive campsite established at Gap Point on St. George Island State Park, 0.4 miles NE of existing Gap Point site. Reservations are still made through the park office.

Segment 3, Panama City Beach/ St Andrews Bay, Map 2-B, the text and map have been changed to note that it is NOT possible to paddle east past Shell Island through the Lands End Inlet and you must paddle on the Gulf side of Shell Island after leaving St. Andrews State Park.

May 2013: The campground at Elliott Key in Biscayne National Park, part of segment 16, has been closed for repairs until further notice. Boca Chita campground remains open.

April 2013: A new motel option, the Comfort Inn Oceanside, has been added to map 1A of segment 18, and expanded information about Mosquito Lagoon camping has been added to segment 22.

November, 2012: Angler's Resort in the town of Suwannee (segment 6) is now Anderson Landing and new coordinates have been put on map for canal entrance.

Mary's Fish Camp, mile 498.8 in segment 7, is closed.

Titusville Railroad Bridge spoil island campsite has been moved to an island 1 mile south (segment 22, mile 1345)

GPS coordinates adjusted for miles 455, 460.5, 766 and 1465 in data book.

July, 2012: The official paddler campsite at Oleta River State Park in segment 16 has now reopened after restoration to the site was completed

June, 2012: Third edition of printed CT trail guide released and available on Amazon.

April, 2012: El Sea's Fish Camp in Horseshoe Beach, accessible from the water, has been added as an overnight lodging option in segment 6.

March, 2012: In segment 18, there is now a kayak launch at the Snook Islands Natural Area directly adjacent to the Sabal Palm House Bed and Breakfast.

Instead of camping anywhere in a large wilderness area at St. Joseph Peninsula State Park in segment 4, camping is now limited to three paddler campsites in the wilderness area on the bay side, or paddlers can hike to two interior sites from the Gulf. Reservations are still made through the park office.

At Curry Hammock State Park in segment 15, day four, paddlers have the option of calling the park at least 24 hours in advance to check walk-in availability for camping (305-394-3330).

February, 2012: Knight's Key Campground was added as an overnight option on day 5 of segment 15 in the Florida Keys.

November, 2011: Bowtie Island near Lover's Key at the beginning of segment 13 is now open for primitive camping. There is no charge and camping is on a first-come, first-served basis.

April, 2011: The composting toilet has been installed at the Garden Cove (formerly called Port Bougainville) campsite in Pennekamp State Park, part of segment 16, and the campsite is now open to paddlers. Users should reserve the site through the park.

Everglades National Park has opened two new chickee campsites on stilts in Florida Bay—near Johnson Key and Shark Point. Check maps and text for segment 14, Day 8, for detailed information.

March, 2011: The state of Georgia has completed its saltwater paddling trail guide, effectively extending the trail to South Carolina: <http://www.crc.ga.gov/docs/bluewayplanfinal.pdf>. It is part of an overall National Park Service/multi-state effort to create a Southeast Coast Saltwater Paddling Trail.

January, 2011: Second edition of printed trail guide is made available on Amazon and on the Florida Paddling Trails Association website.

October, 2010: Due to flooding at high tide of a primitive campsite south of the boat ramp along the Econfina River in segment 6, a new primitive campsite has been established on higher ground 1.5 miles north along the west bank of the river. It is remote and shaded. A tent platform and fire ring has been installed by an eagle scout.

The Sugar Hill primitive campsite in St. George Island State Park, previously closed due to fire hazards, has been relocated and reopened 300 yards northeast of the previous site along the bay side. Water, showers and bathrooms on the beach side are within easy walking distance from the

new site. This “paddlers only” site is 3 miles northeast of the current Gap Point primitive campsite. See Segment 4 guide for more details.

June, 2010: On day two of Segment 23, Ross Point Park in Holly Hill has been added and a bed and breakfast across the street is easily accessible to paddlers.

The motel and cabins at Flamingo have not reopened after sustaining extensive hurricane damage a few years ago. Only camping is available.

March, 2010: Three planned primitive campsites on the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge (segment 5) are now open to long-distance paddlers. For permit information, log onto: <http://www.fws.gov/saintmarks/hiking.html>.

The county-owned River Breeze Campground in Segment 22, day four, is now closed. Paddlers can still utilize the park for a rest stop. This makes for a long 26 mile day to Shipyard Island in the Mosquito Lagoon. The Spruce Creek Park Campground in segment 23 is also closed, but this was off the route and generally not utilized by circumnavigational paddlers.

February, 2010: On Day Seven of Segment 15, Sugarloaf Key KOA replaced Howell Key as an overnight stop.

December, 2009: Improvements were made in the procedures for reserving and paying for campsites in the Tate’s Hell State Forest along the Crooked River. See Day Two of Segment 5.

November, 2009: First edition of printed trail guide is made available on Amazon.