

Paddle Guide Overview

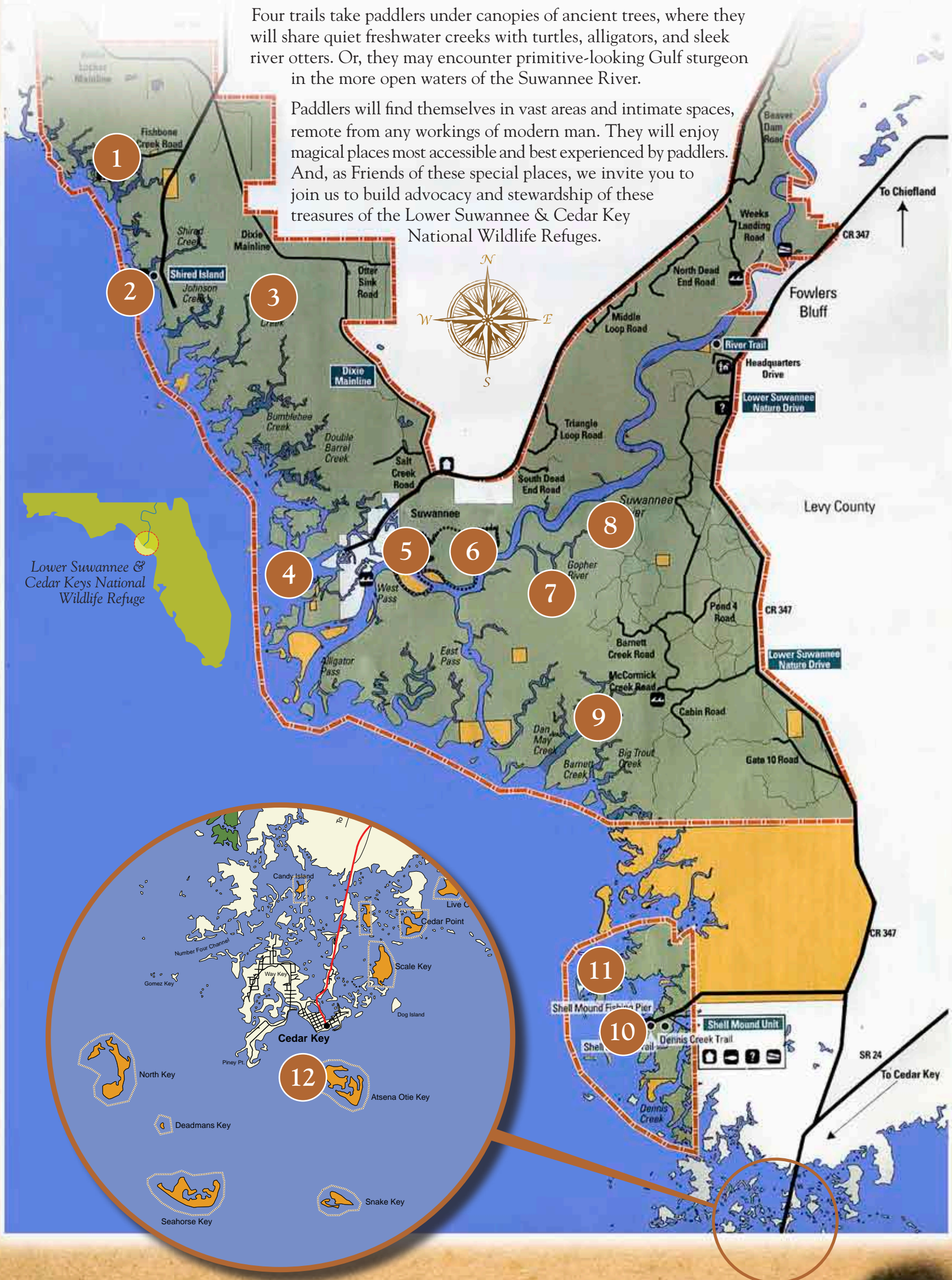
The Paddle Connection to the Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuges.

This Guide showcases twelve outstanding paddling trails in the Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuges. Paddlers on these trails will encounter unique and memorable places and inhabitants. They will experience the natural systems at work and, unfortunately, under stress.

Eight of the trails border the Gulf of Mexico, where paddlers may mingle with bottlenose dolphins and white pelicans. They will ply tidal creeks and marshes which support an amazing variety of birdlife.

Four trails take paddlers under canopies of ancient trees, where they will share quiet freshwater creeks with turtles, alligators, and sleek river otters. Or, they may encounter primitive-looking Gulf sturgeon in the more open waters of the Suwannee River.

Paddlers will find themselves in vast areas and intimate spaces, remote from any workings of modern man. They will enjoy magical places most accessible and best experienced by paddlers. And, as Friends of these special places, we invite you to join us to build advocacy and stewardship of these treasures of the Lower Suwannee & Cedar Key National Wildlife Refuges.



Enjoy the waterways of the Refuges!



What are Biozones?

Biozones are geographic areas, identified on each paddle map, thru which a paddler navigates, that highlights specific natural communities like a salt marsh, maritime forest, palm island, etc. They provide a frame of reference for the identification of flora and fauna that reside within and the migratory species that visit the refuge. The biozones are nature’s stage from which stories about the refuge are told; and, they present the physical envelope within which visitors become active participants, thereby enhancing their connection to the refuge.



The complete Guide consists of thirteen 11 x 17 inch panels.

Panel 1, the Overview, locates the selected waters and lists the physical characteristics of each paddle (see Paddle Route Information below), so visitors can select the trail that best fits their interests, physical conditioning, navigational and paddling skills. Panels 2-13 display the navigational maps of each trail, along with descriptions of the natural features or biozones through which the paddler unlocks the treasures of the Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuges.

When making your paddling plans, don’t overestimate your skills and stamina, respect the tides and weather, but most importantly... enjoy!



For more information, updates and comments, please visit: www.paddleLSCRefuges.org		LENGTH IN MILES	TIME IN HOURS*	SHUTTLE REQ'D	FRESH/SALT (F/S)	OPEN/PROTECTED WATER (O/P)	EXPERIENCE LEVEL (B/I/A)	NAVIGATIONAL SKILLS (B/A)
Paddle Route Information								
Paddle 1	Fishbone Creek	3	1.5	N	S	O/P	I	B
Paddle 2	Shired Creek	4.8	2.5	N	S	P	B	A
Paddle 3	Sanders Creek	6.4	3.5	Y	S	O/P	A	A
Paddle 4	Cat Island	5.9	3.0	N	S	O/P	I	B
Paddle 5	Kayak Trail - Lock Creek	3.8	2.0	N	F	P	B	B
Paddle 6	Kayak Trail - Lock/Shingle Creek	6.9	3.5	N	F	P	A	A
Paddle 7	Gopher River	7.4	4.0	N	F	P	I	A
Paddle 8	Sandfly Creek	3.5	2.0	N	F	P	I	B
Paddle 9	Barnett Creek to McCormic Creek	3.5	2.0	Y	F/S	P	B	A
Paddle 10	Shellmound - Hog Island	3.1	2.0	N	S	P/O	I	B
Paddle 11	Shellmound - Long Cabbage Island	4.3	2.5	N	S	P/O	I	B
Paddle 12	Cedar key - Atsenia Otie	2.8-3.3	1-1.5	N	S	O	I	B

NOTE TO USERS: Great care has been taken to ensure this guide’s accuracy, but tides, weather, depth and other conditions can change rapidly and create potentially hazardous conditions. Users should have proper safety equipment and check conditions prior to departure.