

S10 Day Paddles - ICW

Anna Maria Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This paddle takes you along the east side of Anna Maria Island, into Bimini Bay on the west side of School Island, out the pass at the north end of School Island and then northwest along Anna Marie Island to Bayfront Park. Bayfront Park has a beach landing and is a great place to take a break. There are bathroom facilities at the Park. If you want to add another mile or so, you can continue past the City Pier and go to the tip of the island. Return to the launch site by paddling southeast along Anna Maria Island and then along the east side of School Island. Turn south midway along School Island and return to the launch site.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 8.3 Miles/3.5 Miles

Launch Site: Kingfish Ramp

Special Considerations: There is heavy motorboat traffic in the boat channels. Except for entering and exiting Bimini Bay, there is no need to cross any boat channels. Depending on wind strength and direction, conditions can vary greatly along this route. Open water paddling.

Skill Level Definitions

Beginner: New to paddling and may need tips and or instructions about paddling strokes, safety procedures, and entering/exiting kayaks. Comfortable on short trips of 1 to 3 miles on protected waters, when wind does not exceed 5 mph.

Novice: Paddlers acquainted with basic paddle strokes and can manage kayak handling independently in winds not exceeding 10 mph on protected waters. Comfortable on trips up to 6 miles.

Intermediate: Paddlers with experience in basic strokes and some experience on different venues, including some open water. Comfortable on trip distances of 6 to 10 miles, winds not exceeding 15 mph.

Advanced: Seasoned paddlers who possess skills and experience to paddle all venues and conditions. Experienced in self-rescues. Should be comfortable paddling more than 10 miles in a day.

NOTE: Great care has been taken to ensure this guides accuracy, but weather, tides, and water conditions can change rapidly and create hazardous conditions. These maps are for visual reference only, please consult NOAA Charts for navigation. Paddlers should have all proper safety equipment and check conditions before departure. All paddlers should always wear PFDs while on the water, and leave a float plan. There are inherent dangers in any paddle sport. There are special hazards along the Florida coast due to shifting tides, changing wind and weather, shallow waters, and treacherous bottoms with soft mud, rocks, and oyster bars. It is up to each paddler to be aware of these dangers, to accept and be prepared for the risks involved, and to be certain they have the skills to safely paddle in these conditions.