

S10 Day Paddles - ICW

Edwards Island Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This paddle, includes side trips into Hudson Bayou and other small coves and canals along the southeastern shore of Sarasota Bay. The side trips provide interesting, close up views of the tremendous variety of houses along the bay. Paddling along the shore also has the advantage of avoiding the heavy motorboat traffic that usually is found in this section of the bay. Once the Siesta Key Bridge is reached, paddle under the bridge and along the east side of the Intracoastal Waterway. Edwards Island will be on the west side of the Intracoastal Waterway as the waterway narrows between Edwards Island and the bird preserve on the east side of the channel. Cross over to Edwards Island and paddle around the south end of the island. Head west and enter the canal that cuts across the northern tip of Siesta Key. This canal is worthwhile for its scenic views of a variety of interesting houses. Paddle north up the canal, pass under Siesta Key drive, and exit the canal into Sarasota Bay. Paddle northeast back to the launch site.

Skill Level: Intermediate Advanced due to boat traffic.

Distance/Approximate Time: 9.1 Miles/4.5 Hours

Launch Site: Bayfront and Marina Island Park Paddle Launch

Special Considerations: Be aware of channel markers as you paddle in the open bay and take care to stay out of boat channels. Be alert for fast moving boat traffic, especially as you cross the bay and Intracoastal Waterway.

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.