

S10 Day Paddles - ICW

Egmont Key Circumnavigation Information Sheet

Description: This is one of the premier paddles in Segment 10. This paddle consists of two options: a 3 mile crossing to the south end of Egmont Key with a return to the launch site or the 3 mile crossing plus a roughly 5 mile paddle around Egmont Key. This paddle is notable for (usually) clear water and a variety of paddling conditions and scenery, including not only close up views of Egmont Key, but also distant views of Mullet Key and the Sunshine Skyway Bridge. The paddle from Bayfront Park to Egmont Key starts out crossing the boat channel off the northern tip of Anna Maria Island and then paddling over a relatively shallow area as you approach and pass Passage Key. The final mile to Egmont Key is deeper water and often used by motorboats. The south end of Egmont Key is a wildlife preserve and landing is not permitted. If one continues around Egmont Key, the east side of the key is protected from gulf waves and is mostly covered with vegetation. The gulf side is scoured by waves and is mostly sandy beach. Unless access is restricted, the gulf side of the key provides some excellent places to stop. Remnants of the old fort can be seen as you paddle along the gulf side. Near the south end of the key, remnants of the fort are visible several hundreds yards offshore and are worth checking out.

Skill Level: Advanced

Distance/Approximate Time: 10.5 Miles/5 Hours

Launch Site: Anna Maria Bayfront Park Paddle Launch (best at north end of park)

Special Considerations: Skilled paddlers only who are able to handle significant wind and waves, as well as challenging turbulence near the north and south ends of the key. Stay alert for fast moving boat traffic when in channels. Short portage to beach launch.

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.