

S10 Day Paddles - ICW

Jewfish Key Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This is an 10.8 mile paddle from Bayfront Park canoe/kayak launch north-west along Longboat Key, past the Sister Keys, around the north end of Jewfish Key, and back to the launch site. This is a paddle in the northern part of Sarasota Bay and affords a distant view of downtown Sarasota at the south end of the bay, nice views of the variety of houses along Longboat Key, and scenic views of Jewfish Key and the Sister Keys. Jewfish Key is privately owned, but the Sister Keys are owned by the Town of Longboat Key and have been restored to their natural state.

Skill Level: Advanced

Distance/Approximate Time: 10.8 Miles/5 Hours

Launch Site: Bayfront Park Paddle Launch

Special Considerations: The Intracoastal Waterway is heavily used, especially on weekends and holidays. It is best to stay on the west side of the Intracoastal Waterway until you get to the Sister Keys. Be alert to boat traffic when crossing the Intracoastal Waterway I because motorboats tend to be moving fast in the channel.

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.