

S10 Day Paddles - ICW

Lido Key Circumnavigation Information Sheet

Description: This is a 8 mile paddle around Lido Key. The paddle can be done either clockwise or counterclockwise depending on wind and tides. Avoiding boat channels can best be done in the passes by paddling on the north side of each pass. This is one of the best paddles in this area because it provides a tremendous variety of scenery and paddling conditions from protected bays to turbulent tidal races to waves in the open gulf.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 8.4 Miles/4 Hours

Launch Site: New Pass Overlook Park Paddle Launch

Special Considerations: Paddlers should be comfortable paddling in the gulf with wind and waves, as well as turbulent conditions at the mouth of New Pass and Big Pass. Paddlers must also be prepared to paddle against very strong currents in either pass depending on the tides. Both tides as well as wind and waves should be taken into account in planning this trip. Best paddled near the change of tides to avoid strong currents in the Passes. Care should be taken to stay out of motorboat channels in both passes and in bays.

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.