

S10 Day Paddles - ICW

Roberts Bay Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Once in the Intracoastal Waterway, turn north and paddle along the eastern side of the Intracoastal Waterway until you reach Roberts Bay. Continue north along the eastern shore of Roberts Bay. Turn west around the northern tip of Edwards Island (it is the last island on the left before you reach the Siesta Key Bridge). Paddle along the western side of Roberts Bay's mangrove islands to return to the launch site. The Roberts Bay shoreline is a mix of mangroves and housing developments. There is a bird rookery to the east of Edwards Island.

Skill Level: Novice/Intermediate due to boat traffic and open water in Roberts Bay

Distance/Approximate Time: 5.5 Miles/2.5 Hours

Launch Site: Phillippi Estate Park Paddle Launch

Special Considerations: The Intracoastal Waterway runs through Roberts Bay and typically has heavy boat traffic. Be sure to stay out of the Intracoastal Waterway unless crossing the boat channel and be alert for fast moving boats at all times. Also, be alert for oyster bars near the mouth of Phillippi Creek and on the western side of Roberts Bay. 100 yard portage to water.

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.