

S11 Day Paddles - ICW

Blackburn/Dryman Bays Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This is a short paddle down South Creek and out to a string of mangrove islands along the west side of the Intracoastal Waterway. South Creek passes through residential developments, however, once into the ICW the exploration of the islands in southern Dryman Bay and northern Blackburn Bay is more natural and hidden from most of the developed shoreline. Blackburn Bay and Dryman Bay are part of the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program study area and enjoys the protection of the Outstanding Florida Water designation.

Skill Level: Novice

Distance/Approximate Time: 2.4 Miles/1.5 Hours

Launch Site: South Creek - Shoreland Park Paddle Launch

Special Considerations: Be mindful of powerboat traffic on the Intracoastal Waterway. Stay out of the channel where possible and paddle along the shoreline once you cross 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.