

## S11Day Paddles - ICW

### Boca Grande Bayou Loop Information Sheet

**Description:** Boca Grande, AKA Gasparilla Island is reached via the Boca Grande causeway toll bridge. The Boca Grande Bayou is a protected waterway with some power boat traffic. (dead-slow only). It is bordered by up scale residences with lifts and docks along the banks. On the west side about a mile south from the 19th street launch point, is "The Innlet Motel and Restaurant. Great place to stop for breakfast or lunch. There is a kayak take-out at a concrete ramp at the north end of the Motel. Hogan Key at the north end of our loop has a primitive campsite. Good place to stop, rest, and stretch your legs.

**Skill Level:** Novice

**Distance/Approximate Time:** 4.7 Miles/2.5 Hours

**Launch Site:** 19th St Paddle Launch

**Special Considerations:** Limited parking along 19th St. The part of the route along the open bay can be rough from wind and wakes from boats on the Intracoastal Waterway. You can always return via the protected Bayou if needed.

#### 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.