

## S11 Day Paddles - ICW

## Dog Island Primitive Camping Trip Information Sheet

**Description:** This is a short paddle into the Intracoastal and under the Boca Grande Causeway bridge, past the old railroad trestle and into Gasparilla Sound. There are several sandbars around the trestle area that may be exposed on low tide. The campsite and beach landing is on the north side of the island. Camping, which originally was by reservation and fee, is now free. Dog Island is small, so you may have to accommodate other campers. The return is back to the Placida Park ramp.

**Skill Level:** Novice

**Distance/Approximate Time:** 1.1 Miles/.5 Hours

**Launch /Takeout Site:** Placida Park Ramp

**Campsite:** Dog Island

**Special Considerations:** Be careful with powerboats in the ICW. Avoid paddling on windy days, waters can get rough with southerly winds due to the size of Gasparilla Sound. Overnight parking is allowed at the Placida Ramp. Please practice Leave No Trace principles.

### 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.