

S11 Day Paddles - ICW

Don Pedro Island State Park Beach Loop Information Sheet

Description: This is a paddle of about 4 miles from Don Pedro State Park dock (with a sandy beach for kayak launch) to Don Pedro State Park Island – which has Gulf Beach access. This paddle will take you to the back side of the state park island – where you can access the Gulf Beach with about a 200-yard walk across the island. This route crosses the Intracoastal Waterway.

Skill Level: Novice

Distance/Approximate Time: 4.2 Miles 2.5 Hours

Launch Site: Don Pedro Island State Park Paddle Launch

Special Considerations: Access the hidden lake at high tide only. The Don Pedro Island ramp is behind the left end of boat dock. The Gulf beach site has flush toilets, fresh drinking water, covered pavilion with tables and benches. The ICW can get rough from boat traffic and/or on windy days. You can always return by means of the more protected side bay. State Park entry fee. Parking lot is about 100 yards from beach launch. Need to get ranger permission to drive car to unload boat before reparking car.

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.