

S11 Day Paddles - ICW

Stump Pass Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This mangrove island paddle is at Stump Pass and is located in the Lemon Bay Aquatic Preserve. It is a unique, submerged ecosystem of mangrove, seagrass and oyster communities. The bay is a long, narrow estuarine system, running from just south of Placida, north, almost to Venice. It is about 13 miles long and averages three-quarters-of-a-mile wide. Lemon Bay is separated from the Gulf of Mexico by two barrier islands - Little Gasparilla Island and Manasota Key. Manasota Key stretches along the northern two-thirds of the bay's length. Lemon Bay is the smallest of the five [Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves](#). Human activity in the area dates back to the Archaic period, 10,500 B.P. – 3,000 B.P. Dolphins are usually plentiful.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 7 Miles/4 Hours

Launch Site: Stump Pass Beach State Park Paddle Launch

Special Considerations: Be careful of strong tidal flow near Stump Pass, as well as fast moving power boats. Stay out of the channel where possible and paddle along the shoreline.

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.