

## S11 Day Paddles - ICW

## Venice Inlet Four Islands Paddle Information Sheet

**Description:** This is a short circumnavigation of four islands in the Intracoastal Waterway just east of the Venice Inlet.. Snake Island was a popular weekend hangout for power boaters in the summer, as well as a great campsite. In the cooler months. However, it is currently (as of 2021) being used as a repository for dredge material from an ongoing dredging operation and is federally posted as off limits. A camping and a beach landing alternative is on the south end of Turner Key, just to the north of Snake Island. This is also a great place to take a break.

**Skill Level:** Novice

**Distance/Approximate Time:** 2.3 Hours/2 Hours

**Launch Site:** North Venice Jetty Park Paddle Launch

**Special Considerations:** Be mindful of power boats when crossing the Intracoastal Waterway, and paddle along the shoreline when possible. Be careful of tidal flow near the Inlet. Onshore wind and outgoing tides can make for rough water at the Inlet. Best paddled near the change of tides.

### 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.