

S11 Day Paddles - Myakka River

Little Myakka Lake/Deep Hole Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This paddle is mostly in the wilderness area of Myakka River State Park. A permit is required to enter the wilderness area. The first couple of miles is through a mix of forest and flood plain, while the final mile to the lower lake is a narrow, winding channel through a flood plain. From Deep Hole, proceed downriver approximately a quarter mile to the oak hammock which is visible from Deep Hole. The oak hammock is on the left side of the river and makes an excellent lunch stop. Proceed back upriver to return to the launch site. Save energy to paddle against the current on your return.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 9.7 Miles/5 Hours

Launch Site: Myakka River SP - State Park Rd Paddle Launch

Special Considerations: The Park entrance fee is \$4 single occupant and \$6 2-8 people per vehicle. Myakka River State Park has one of the highest densities of alligators in Florida. Give alligators a wide berth. Be especially vigilant paddling around bends in order to avoid startling alligators lounging along the river. During low water, there are times when there may be over a hundred alligators in the vicinity of Deep Hole. Wilderness permits are free and can be obtained at the ranger station at the main entrance to the park. The park limits the number of daily visitors to the wilderness area, so it is advisable to get there in the morning to have a better chance of getting a permit.

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.