

S11 Day Paddles - Myakka River

North Port Marina Park to El Jobean Park Information Sheet

Description: Once launched, the paddle down Myakkahatchee Creek to the Myakka River is approximately 1 1/2 miles. The creek starts out with houses visible along both sides of the creek. After a short distance, the remainder of the paddle down the creek is through undeveloped mostly wetland areas. Once in the Myakka River, turn southwest. The river will widen as you paddle downriver. Houses will be visible along sections of the river, but much of the lower river is characterized by wetlands and low-lying undeveloped areas. After crossing under the SR 776 bridge, paddle along the left bank and turn into the first canal you come to. You will now be paddling northwest. The boat ramp will be at the end of the canal.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 9.7 Miles/5 Hours

Launch Site: North Port Marina Park Ramp

Takeout Site: El Jobean Park Ramp

Special Considerations: This area of the river is affected by the tide. Watch for underwater obstacles and sandbars while paddling at lower tides. Be alert for fast moving powerboats while paddling on the river. This paddle requires shuttling vehicles.

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.