

S11 Day Paddles - Myakka River

Snook Haven to Deer Prairie Preserve Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This section of the Myakka River gets wider as you paddle downstream. Although there are a few developments scattered along the river, most of the riverbank along this section of the river is wooded. Check on Snook Haven's live music schedule before planning a to launch from Snook Haven. Live music is heavily attended and parking anywhere near the boat ramp difficult to find, especially on weekends.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 6.5 Hours/3 Hours

Launch Site: Snook Haven Park

Takeout Site: Deer Prairie Preserve

Special Considerations: Be alert for fast moving powerboats. This section of the river is affected by the tides. It is best to do this paddle on an outgoing tide. This paddle requires shuttling. Snook Haven Park and Restaurant parking is free, but there is a \$5 charge if your canoe or kayak is on a trailer. A restroom is available in the park.

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.