

S11 Day Paddles - Myakka River

Information Sheet

Description: This section of the Myakka River is mainly a wilderness paddle with a few houses scattered along the way. The river gradually becomes wider and more tidally affected as you paddle downstream. The vegetation along the river is mostly hardwood forest with some scattered pine. A variety of wading birds and an occasional alligator may be seen along the river. River traffic tends to be light. The Snook Haven Restaurant is Old Florida at it's best and should not be missed.

Skill Level: Novice/Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 5.7 Miles/2.5 Hours

Launch Site: Venice Myakka River Park Paddle Launch

Takeout Site: Snook Haven Park Ramp

Special Considerations: Be alert for fast moving jonboats on this section of the river. The launch is off a floating dock. A kayak dolly is recommended to transport your kayak to the floating dock, since the floating dock is approximately a quarter mile of from the parking lot. At the Snook Haven takeout there is a \$5 launch fee for kayaks that arrive on a trailer. Check the events schedule online to see when live music is scheduled at Snook Haven. Live music events are extremely popular and heavily attended, so parking can be difficult during those times.

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.