

## Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Caloosahatchee River Area

## Orange River Information Sheet

**Description:** If your trip is during a cold spell in the winter months you might be able to see the manatees that hang out in the warm waters flowing from the power plant and even get to paddle next to them. To do this, take a right at the end of the short launch canal where it enters the Orange River. Otherwise, take a left to paddle upstream. Although houses line the banks of most of the river, they are not obtrusive and there is an abundance of vegetation.

**Skill Level:** Intermediate/Advanced due to distance

**Distance/Time:** 10 -14 Miles round trip

**Launch Site:** Lee County Manatee Park Kayak Launch –Go east on SR80 then take a right just east of the Orange River/SR80 Bridge

**Special Considerations:** Paddling distance depends on water levels.

### 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.