

## S12EB Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Estero Bay

## Mound Key Paddle Information Sheet

**Description:** This is a fairly short paddle across beautiful Estero Bay and through it's mangrove islands along the way. Mound Key is a Florida Archeological State Park. The Calusa inhabited the island when the Spaniards first attempted to colonize southwest Florida in the early 1500s. Check out the interpretive trail across the island. The island is managed by the Koreshan State Park and is open every day sunrise to sunset. There are no fees. There is also a small kayak landing on the southeast side of the island.

**Skill Level:** Intermediate, due to open water.

**Distance/Time:** 2.5 Miles each way/1.5 Hours each way

**Launch Site:** Lovers Key SP Ramp on Estero Blvd

**Special Considerations:** Open water, not recommended on windy days. No facilities on the island. No camping allowed.

### 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.