

S12MP Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Matlacha Pass

Little Pine Island Circumnavigation Information Sheet

Description: This is a long and difficult paddle, but fun, due to the tortuous mangrove tunnels north and south of the second bridge. This passageway is especially shallow south of the second bridge. There are numerous side creeks and dead ends. Occasionally you will find it easier to pull your way through sections rather than paddle. Keep your eye out for the occasional trimmed mangroves, an indication that you are on the trail. Once in the mangrove tunnels you likely will not see other paddlers. This is a favorite trail of the locals. Once out of the mangrove tunnels, you can stretch out and appreciate the open waters of Matlacha Pass.

Skill Level: Advanced

Distance/Time: 13.2 Miles/6 Hours

Launch Site: Matlacha Park Paddle Launch on the south side of Pine Island Rd.

Special Considerations: This paddle is only navigable at high tide. Smaller boats are recommended due to numerous tight turns in the mangrove tunnel areas. GPS highly recommended. Possible occasional deadfall, especially after storms.

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.