

S12MP Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Matlacha Pass

Punta Blanca Bay Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Upon launching, head due east to a prominent point on the other side of the pass. As you get closer, look for the next point just to the south which marks the entrance to Punta Blanca Bay. Once through the pass, take a loop to the north and circle back around to the south.. From this point on the general direction to paddle is south-southeast.. Continue winding your way through the island passes until you emerge into the open water. This is where the Caloosahatchee River and Matlacha Pass converge. Return is back to the northeast to Tropical Point.

Skill Level: Intermediate/Advanced due to open water.

Distance/Time: 8 Miles/4Hours

Launch Site: Tropical Point Paddle Launch - South on Stringfellow Rd and east on Tropical Point Dr.

Special Considerations: Matlacha Pass is at its widest at this crossing and can get rough. Not recommended on windy days.

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.