

S12MP Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Matlacha Pass

St James Creek Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This is a long, but protected paddle. If windy, you can stay inside all the way down and back except for a short distance near the launch site. Or if too long for you, you can turn around at any point and retrace your trail back. Wind your way through the mangrove lined creek as you head south. There are a couple of side creeks with dead end bays in the lower half of the paddle if you wish to explore. Return is either outside or inside, the way you came. If you have time, check out the St Jude Hiking Trail.

Skill Level: Advanced, due to distance

Distance/Time: 18.1 Miles/8 -9 Hours

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

Special Considerations: Recommended on medium to high tide.

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.