

S12MP Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Matlacha Pass

Underhill Creek Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Numerous birds can be seen at this Calusa Land Trust preserve, including Roseate Spoonbills, Black-crowned Night Herons, and of course the ever-present yet intriguing White Ibis. There is a short mangrove tunnel that has a shallow entrance best entered on the north side and an interesting small mangrove island to circumnavigate at the end.

Skill Level: Novice

Distance/Time: 4.9 Miles/3 Hours

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

Special Considerations: This paddle should only be done at a medium to high tide. The creek entrance is very shallow, and best entered on the north side as well. 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.