

S13ENPEC Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - ENP Everglades

Barron River Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This trip leaves from the Everglades National Park Ranger Station and heads north-east past the airport then up the Barron River and along the eclectic waterfront of Everglades City. You'll pass restaurants with dockside seating right next to shrimp boats and commercial fishing enterprises. One caution, however, is that the airboat tours use the area just before the bridge over Collier Avenue, where a channel heads off to the west, as a jumping off point for their tours. So be aware, keep to the right side of the main channel to avoid them. The route now proceeds under the Collier Avenue Bridge and curves around to the southeast to the marked trail that leads easterly to Halfway Creek where you take a right. There, Halfway Creek heads toward the south-west, past Plantation Island, a developed area with funky trailers and mobile homes, most of which are interesting in their own right, before exiting into Chokoloskee Bay then traveling under the causeway where you hang a right to get back to the ENP ranger station.

Skill Level: Advanced

Distance/Time: 10.6 Miles/Approximately 5 Hours

Launch Site: Everglades National Park Visitors Center in Flamingo

Special Considerations: This trip, as are all the trips on the rivers of this area, are shallow and tidal, so plan your trip accordingly. GPS, map and compass are a must.. Check with ENP rangers to see if Halfway Creek is open. Occasionally after storms it gets blocked with deadfall.

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.