

Halfway Creek Loop Information Sheet

Description: This trip starts at the launch at the end of Seagrape Drive off of US Hwy 41 about 2.5 miles east of Hwy 29. Although the first mile of this paddle travels along a straight channel, there are still plenty of things to see on the interesting banks. When the channel enters the first small lake, it's 8/10 of a mile, through a few more small lakes, to the turnoff on the right from Halfway Creek to a marked loop trail. This trail, traveling counter clockwise, will take you on an incredible scenic tour of about five miles through a maze of mangrove tunnels, creeks and small lakes. It returns to Halfway Creek, your starting point, and to your way back through the small lakes and the channel to the launch.

Skill Level: Advanced

Distance/Time: 8.9 Miles/Approximately 4 Hours

Launch Site: Everglades National Park - Everglades City Visitors Center

Special Considerations: This trip, as are all the trips on the rivers and creeks 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.