

Halfway Creek Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Although the first mile of this paddle travels along a straight channel, there are still plenty of things to see on the interesting banks. It then winds through a series of small lakes and eventually into a three mile long beautiful mangrove tunnel; one of the most beautiful in the area. It finally passes next to a developed area with funky trailers and mobile homes, some of which are interesting in their own right, before exiting into Chokoloskee Bay and traveling under the causeway on to the Visitors Center.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Take-out Site: ENP Visitors Center Paddle Launch in Everglades City.

Distance/Time: 7.8 Miles/3 Hours

Launch Site: Big Cypress National Preserve - Halfway Creek - Seagrape Paddle Launch off US Hwy 41

Special Considerations: This paddle requires a shuttle, and is best paddled on an outgoing tide. Map, compass and GPS recommended.

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.