

S13ENPE Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - ENP Everglades City

Jewell Key Camp Trip Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Jewell Key is one of the closest campsites from Everglades City, and a popular destination. From the Visitors Center launch site, head SSW across Chokoloskee Bay to Sandfly Pass. Once in the Pass, on your right (north) side you'll see a dock and landing that provides access to a one mile hiking trail on Sandfly Island. The island was formed by Calusa shell midden over 2,000 years ago and later occupied by settlers in the early 1900's. Early remnants of civilization are few and the island settlement has become overgrown, returning to its more natural state. Continue down Sandfly Pass to the Gulf and out to Jewell Key.

Skill Level: Novice/Intermediate

Distance/Time: 4.8 Miles each way/3 Hours each way

Launch Site: Everglades National Park Visitors Center in Flamingo

Special Considerations: Tidal currents can be very strong in the passes between Chokoloskee Bay and the Gulf. Some open water paddling. Map, compass and GPS recommended. All back country camping requires permits from Everglades National Park no sooner than 24 hours prior to camping. Please review ENPs Backcountry planning site and check with rangers to make sure site is open. Please practice "Leave No Trace" principles.

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.