

Mormon Key Camp Trip Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This is a long paddle only for experienced paddlers with considerable open water paddling and navigation skills. After heading out of Everglades City and around the southern tip of Chokoloskee, head up the Lopez River, and into Sunday Bay, At the south end of Sunday Bay head south through the pass then head SSW, then south into House Hammock Bay to the Huston River. Near the Gulf, you'll pass through Storter Bay and into the open Gulf. Head SSE to the first offshore island which is Mormon Key.

Skill Level: Advanced

Distance/Time: 20.3 Miles each way/8 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. 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.