

## S13MCR Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Marco Is. - Cape Romano

## Big Key Paddle Information Sheet

**Description:** After leaving the Goodland Ramp, follow the left shoreline along the town of Goodland, go under the bridge and continue to follow the channel along the Marco River until you get to the cut at Big Key on your left. After the cut, hang a right back toward the Marco River before ducking into a small bay on your left which has a short creek, After breaking out of the short creek you should see the only houses on this trail except for those in Goodland. Follow the creek in a southeasterly direction back to the Marco River, the bridge and Goodland Bay to the ramp.

**Skill Level:** Advanced

**Distance/Time:** 10.3 Miles/5 Hours

**Launch Site:** Goodland Boating Park Ramp, south end of Palm Point Dr. There are bathroom facilities and a small store on site. Launch fee.

**Special Considerations:** Powerboat traffic in the Marco River.

### 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.