

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

Grassy Bays Paddle Information Sheet

Description: After leaving the Goodland Ramp, head SSE through the pass down to the cut in Neal Key. Keep Helen Key on your right until you get to the small creek on your right that leads to Little Grassy Bay. Once in the Bay, head northeast out of the Bay and over to Kice Island. Follow the Kice Island shore northward around the point and head southeast to a small creek at the end of Grassy Bay. That creek will take you back to Helen Key. The return is similar, just stay closer to Ramsey Key rather than Neal Key.

Skill Level: Advanced

Distance/Time: 12.3 Miles/6 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: Some open water paddling in Gullivan Bay. Gullivan Bay can get rough, especially with a southerly wind.

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.