

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

Morgan Bay Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This trip should be planned for medium to high tide as Morgan Bay is very shallow. Launching from the Goodland Boating Park, head south out Coon Key Pass towards the gulf. Keep towards the right (west) side of the channel and after passing Coon Key a ways away on your left, you will see the large island of Helen Key on your right. Passing this you will come up on Cape Romano Island, straight ahead; the channel to Morgan Bay will be the first one on your left. Then taking the first right will lead you through a small bay where you can cut straight across to circumnavigate a small island taking you into Morgan Bay. Head southeast, then curve back north to complete the loop. The topography of the southwestern side of Cape Romano has changed considerably over the past fifty years, with beaches and islands migrating southward, as continues to do so. There was an attempt to develop the Cape Romano area in the early sixties.

Skill Level: Advanced

Distance/Time: 13 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: Open water paddling.

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.