

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

Turtle Island Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Large portions of this route can be impassable at very low tides. From the launch, go under the Jolley Bridge then east through Addison Bay about a mile and a quarter to the far side of Charity Island and turn south through the cut, then ESE to the next cut that leads to the Big Marco River, which has lots of high speed boat traffic, so be observant. Hug the north shore and in half a mile there's a narrow cut to the north. Recommend that you do the Turtle Island loop clockwise because the Addison Bay end of Turtle Creek does get impassable for a few hours at low tide and you can turn around and paddle Addison Bay. If Turtle Creek is passable, it comes out into the Big Marco River. Turn west and follow the Big Marco River back to the start point.

Skill Level: Advanced

Distance/Time: 10.6 Miles/5 Hours

Launch Site: As you head south on Collier Blvd (Route 951), take the last right just before the bridge. Parking is on the east side. You may have to unload and then park. The area is flat sand. There are sea grass beds to the north so paddle to the south and under the bridge.

Special Considerations: GPS, maps and compass are recommended for parts of the trip. Recommend paddling on medium to high tide. There may be a pretty good current in the Big Marco River. Try to paddle when the tides are to your advantage.

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.