

S13NC Day Paddles - Northwest Coastal Area

Wiggins Bay Loop Information Sheet

Description: An interesting paddle through different environments. Start out from the launch ramp going south through a short box culvert with plenty of head room, then east under a highway bridge that houses a bat population, then south into an open bay. Hug the west shore and you'll get funneled into a winding tunnel that goes west under the Vanderbilt Road bridge and ends up in Water Turkey Bay, named after Anhingas, which are locally known as water turkeys. Turkey Bay has sand bars at low tide. The route then goes north in the boat channel past Wiggins Pass and east to the launch.

Skill Level: Novice

Distance/Time: 3.4 Miles/2 Hours

Launch Site: The marina/boat ramp is a Collier County owned and maintained facility with rest rooms and a bait and tackle/office shop that opens around daybreak. There is a \$4 launch fee and a ticket machine near the shop. There is parking for about 3 dozen cars and 5 dozen trailers. The ramp itself is concrete and you will compete with boat trailers launching, but they're careful and friendly.

Special Considerations: The route is easy to follow. Parts are shallow at very low tide, but passable.

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.