

S13TT Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - 10,000 Islands

Blackwater Bay Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Filing a float plan at Collier-Seminole State Park is required. Since the Blackwater River is tidal, it makes for a much easier paddle if you can time it to follow the tide out, maybe hang out at the bay for a while, then follow it back in. There are channel markers all the way down the river; winding through mangrove estuaries and salt marsh preserves. Once you arrive at Blackwater Bay, you can make a loop through the small islands, timing your return to the incoming tide. You will see an abundance of wildlife, possibly including alligators, raccoons, otters, manatees, dolphins, and wading birds.

Skill Level: Advanced

Distance/Time: 14.4 Miles/7 Hours

Launch Site: Collier Seminole SP Paddle Launch

Special Considerations: Shallow areas in Blackwater Bay on low tides. SP entrance fee.

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.