

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

Buttonwood Bay Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This trip should be planned for medium to high tide as Buttonwood Bay and the inside passes in the northern portion of the trip can be very shallow and even more of a challenge to navigate at a lower tide. So, the loop can be done clockwise or counter-clockwise to accomplish this. For a clockwise trip, launch from the Goodland Boating Park and head northeast towards Palm Bay but take the cut off to your right into a smaller bay before getting there. If you miss this cut you will end up in Palm Bay, adding a few more miles to your trip. Finding and winding your way through the creeks and cuts across this northern portion of the paddle can be quite a challenge. It's all worth it, however, because you will see an incredible abundance of wildlife up here in this area that's inaccessible to powerboats. It's also rewarding to have been able to find your way through this northern-most portion of the Ten Thousand Islands.

Skill Level: Advanced

Distance/Time: 12.8 Miles/6 Hours

Launch Site: Goodland Boating Park Launch Ramp

Special Considerations: GPS, maps and compass are absolutely necessary. Launch 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.