

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

Fakahatchee Island Primitive Camp Trip Information Sheet

Description: Fakahatchee Island, once home to fishermen and farmers, offers fascinating hints of its former uses by Gladesmen and their families. The island boasts a cemetery, cisterns, and ruins amongst a maze of trails. It's located in the Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge, just outside the boundaries of Everglades National Park so requires no camping permits. Camping is on a first-come-first-serve basis. The main campsite is a clearing located on the east side of the island which is also the landing used by visiting day-trippers. If that spot is taken or you wish a bit more seclusion, there's a nice, little-used campsite with access from either side of the base of a small peninsula on the north end of the island.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Time: 7.3 Miles each way/3 Hours each way

Launch Site: Everglades National Park - Everglades City Visitors Center

Special Considerations: Please let the ENP rangers know your car will be parked overnight in the Visitors Center Parking area.. Recommended paddling at medium to high tide. Maps, compass and GPS are a must.

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.