

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

Blackwater/Mud Bay/Palm Bay Paddle Trail Information Sheet

Description: Filing a float plan at Collier-Seminole State Park is required. The main challenge of this trip is timing it to arrive at Mud Bay at high tide as it is impassible at low tide and still difficult to navigate at medium tide. It is suggested that this loop be done counter-clockwise as it can be very difficult to find your way at the southern end of the loop from Blackwater river through Palm Bay back up to Mud Bay. That said, it is well worth the effort because although much of it is mangrove swamp it also has hardwood forest, coastal strand, and salt-marsh, with an abundance of wildlife including alligators, raccoons, otters, manatees, dolphins, and wading birds.

Skill Level: Advanced

Distance/Time: 14.2 Miles/7 Hours

Launch Site: Collier-Seminole SP Paddle Launch

Special Considerations: Mud Bay tides need to be medium to high tide for passage. 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.