

S13TTCT—Coastal, Rivers and Blueways Trails

10,000 Islands Coastal Camping Trail

Leg 3 - Panther to Fakahatchee Information Sheet

Description: This trip starts at the south side of Panther Key and heads southeast taking a little scenic shortcut though a small cut to Fakahatchee Pass. Note that this pass is a favorite of fishermen speeding to their fishing spots, so stay to the right and close to shore when you hear them coming. We head northeast then east up the pass to Fakahatchee Island where we skirt around the north side of the island. There are a group of pilings to the north, the remnants of an old fishing camp. Coming back down the east side we'll see a small beach at the base of an eroded cliff, on the top of which lies an old cistern, worth a stop. Then we continue heading south to the main camping area on the south east side of the island. See the trip description for Fakahatchee Island Camp Trip for details about this camping location.

Skill Level: Intermediate/Advanced

Distance/Time: 4.7 Miles/Approximately 2 Hours

Launch Site: Panther Key

Take-out Site: Fakahatchee Island

Special Considerations: GPS, Map and compass are a must.. Bring plenty of food and water.

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.