

S13TTCT—Coastal, Rivers and Blueways Trails

10,000 Islands Coastal Camping Trail

Leg 4 - Fakahatchee Is. to Camp Lulu Information Sheet

Description: There is a more direct route from Fakahatchee Is. to Camp Lulu Key, but we're going to take you through the more interesting, less known one. Time your trip for the tides since there's at least one cut where you definitely want the current going with you. Starting from the camping area on the east side of Fakahatchee Is., head directly south then southwest and west, eventually north, circumnavigating the island but winding around the mangrove fingers that stick out (and there's lots of them). Always keep the main island to your right and eventually you'll circle around it and come to a place on the west end of the Island where Fakahatchee Pass begins. Instead of heading across and out the pass, take a right at the small shallow bay after passing the tiny island in the center, where you'll come to a tiny cut heading due south. Take that and wind around to the west to the next small cut heading due south. It sounds complicated, but there's usually a current running through that you just have to follow (or fight against if you didn't plan the tide correctly). So, exiting the second cut, paddle directly south then west through the big bay that will bring you to the wide channel that swings a bit east before heading south to the east side of Camp Lulu Key where the main camping beaches are located. See the trip description for Camp Lulu Camp Trip for details about this camping location.

Skill Level: Intermediate/Advanced

Distance/Time: 3.9 Miles/Approximately 2 Hours

Launch Site: Fakahatchee Island

Take-out Site: Camp Lulu

Special Considerations: GPS, map and compass 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.