

S15 Day Paddles - Lower Keys

Barracuda Keys Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This is a long paddle loop for experienced paddlers only, and covers a string of keys off Snipe Keys, then along the edge of Florida Bay and back along Sugarloaf Key. This is a great paddle to see rays, barracuda, and sharks. The west side of Marvin Key has a great beach/sandbar for swimming, but can get busy on weekends. It's a great place for a mid point rest. Lots of open water, passes, creeks, channels, beaches and keys to explore. You won't believe the colors on a sunny day!

Skill Level: Advanced

Distance/Approximate Time: 18.6 Miles/8 Hours

Launch Site: Sugarloaf Marina Paddle Launch

Special Considerations: Turkey Basin can get quite rough on windy days. Sprayskirt heavily recommended. Launch fee. A good map, compass and GPS recommended.

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.