

S15LK Day Paddles - Lower Keys

Boca Chica Circumnavigation Information Sheet

Description: This circumnavigation is great if you are an avid fan of watching military jets take off and land. There are also lots of small keys to check out on the north side of the island. Except for Big Coppitt Key and Geiger Key, most of the land mass is comprised of the Boca Chica Naval Air Station Key West.

Skill Level: Advanced

Distance/Approximate Time: 15.8 Miles/7 Hours

Launch Site: Geiger Key Paddle Launch

Special Considerations: There is no landing allowed on the Boca Chica Naval Air Station premises, however there are multiple small islands offshore on the north side and east end where you can take a break. Open water paddling. Strong tidal currents in the channels

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.