

S15 Day Paddles - Lower Keys

Coupon Bight Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Watch for the endangered miniature Key Deer as you drive to the put-in and the area around the borrow pit. Launch on an incoming tide and get back to the take out before it gets too low. This trip is a combination of open crossings and paralleling mangrove shore lines and includes the exploration of a borrow Pit and a small mangrove lagoon. Watch for baby sharks and rays. Water clarity is usually good to excellent. Bring a snorkel and fins for snorkeling around the side of the borrow pit. Make sure to have some type of water shoe to let you get out of the boat a pull over broken shells in the shallow entrance to the borrow pit.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 7.1 Miles/3 Hours

Launch Site: Coupon Bight Paddle Launch

Special Considerations: This trip should only be taken with a mid day high tide since there are lots of places with no water at low tides.

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.