

S15LK Day Paddles - Lower Keys

Knockemdown Keys Paddle Information Sheet

Description: To launch, use the north end of Niles Road on Summerland Key. An alternative is to use the north end of Blimp Road on Cudjoe Key. Little Knockemdown has private off-the-grid properties, mostly fish camps on it, so please respect. Both keys have a lot to explore around the shoreline and small creeks and lagoons. There is a good chance of seeing bonnethead sharks.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 9.2 Miles/4.5 Hours

Launch Site: Summerland Key - Niles Rd Paddle Launch

Special Considerations: Cudjoe Key Air Force Site is home to "Fat Albert," actually two tethered blimps used for surveillance of drug activity and to transmit Radio Marti to Cuba. These can be used for a visual reference. Medium to high tide 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.