

S15 Day Paddles - Lower Keys

No Name Key Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Leave from Bahia Honda State Park, paddle west to Don Quixote Key, then to No Name Key. Make a loop return via Big Mangrove Key, then Big Pine Key shoreline, the west side of Spanish Harbor Keys, and paralleling the Bahia Honda Bridge. This is a good trip for advanced paddlers as there are some long channels that have to be crossed that can have some strong tides and wind can build on the long open water crossings. Water clarity is usually excellent. Watch for Spotted Eagle Rays, southern Yellow Sting Rays, and sharks.

Skill Level: Advanced

Distance/Approximate Time: 10.5 Miles/5 Hours

Launch Site: Bahia Honda State Park Ramp

Special Considerations: Strong tidal currents in the channels and passes. Good map and compass recommended. Be watchful of powerboat traffic.

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.