

S15 Day Paddles - Lower Keys

Saddlebunch Salt Pond Paddle Information Sheet

Description: An excellent trip for experienced paddlers to explore a wilderness area where no power boats can get to. Access to the pond is through a short narrow mangrove creek. This is an excellent nature watching trip where you will see small shallow inlets that are Cassiopeia (Upside down jelly fish) nurseries, many baby barracudas and baby sharks. There are many small sandy beaches and several sandy spits to get out on for a break, lunch, or a dip in the shallows. Water clarity ranges from poor to excellent depending on prevailing winds.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 9.5 Miles/4.5 Hours

Launch Site: Geiger Key Paddle Launch

Special Considerations: A good map and a GPS is a must since it is next to impossible to find the entrance to the pond and then the exit when leaving it with out some coordinates. Launch fee. Best sea life viewing is on a calm sunny day.

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.