

S15 Day Paddles - Middle Keys

Lower Matecumbe Circumnavigation Information Sheet

Description: Leave from Anne's Beach, which is a small roadside park at the southern end of Lower Matecumbe Key on the Atlantic side. Head west following the shoreline around the point and paddle to the northern end of Matecumbe at Indian Key Channel, and return along the south shore. Water clarity is usually good to excellent. Watch for baby rays and sharks in the shallows.

Skill Level: Advanced

Distance/Approximate Time: 10.6 Miles/5 Hours

Launch Site: Lower Matecumbe Key Paddle Launch—Annes Beach

Special Considerations: If the tide is low at Annes Beach, you will have to drag your boat through mud for a bit before reaching water for paddling. Keep this in mind for your return. There are a few small boat channels that you have to cross along your route so be aware that power boats could be entering or leaving via them. Spray skirt 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.