

## S15 Day Paddles - Upper Keys

### Barnes Key Paddle Information Sheet

**Description:** Head west passing the southwestern side of Lignumvitae Key, then continue in a northwesterly direction passing the three Peterson Keys on your left. Stop for a break if you so desire on a tiny beach on the third Peterson Key. Continue across open water to Barnes Key, Once you reach Barnes Key, circle it, and if you have the time check out the lagoon that is on the open west side, and look for the flock of white pelicans that winter there. Circle the Key and return via the way you came. Water clarity is fair to excellent. Look for sharks and rays in the open shallows.

**Skill Level:** Advanced

**Distance/Approximate Time:** 17.1 Miles/7 Hours

**Launch Site:** Indian Key Fill Paddle Launch

**Special Considerations:** Long open water paddle. Spray skirt recommended. Not recommended on windy days. Use caution crossing the boat channels, especially on the weekends when there are a lot more power boats on the water.

#### 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.