

## S15 Day Paddles - Upper Keys

## Blackwater Sound Boggy Key Paddle Information Sheet

**Description:** This is a paddle out to a couple of remote beaches on Boggy Key which is part of the Everglades National Park. Be mindful of some of the beaches along the way that are posted with ENP “No Landing” signs. Return is the same way along the northern shore of Boggy Key.

**Skill Level:** Intermediate

**Distance/Approximate Time:** 8.5 Miles/4 Hours

**Launch Site:** Florida Bay Outfitters Paddle Launch

**Special Considerations:** Open water paddling. Recommend spray skirt. GPS recommended. Blackwater Sound can get quite rough with northeasterly winds. Use caution when crossing the ICW (Dusenbury Creek). If leaving your car at Florida Bay Outfitters, let them know your paddling intentions and planned time of return.

### 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.