

## S15 Day Paddles - Upper Keys

### Blackwater Sound Snipe Point Paddle Information Sheet

**Description:** Leave from Florida Bay Outfitters, cross Blackwater Sound, go through a small cut and then continue to Snipe Point, which is on the Everglades National Park mainland. From there start back by exploring a small bay and then cut through Shell Creek to Long Sound. Paddle northeast in Long Sound to Long Sound Pass, and then into Little Blackwater Sound. Cross Little Blackwater Sound and exit it via Blackwater Pass into Blackwater Sound. Then cross Blackwater Sound, returning to your take out. The trip is across open waters, along mangrove-lined shore, through several mangrove creeks and a portion of the Intracoastal Waterway. Water clarity is poor to fair, depending on prevailing winds.

**Skill Level:** Advanced

**Distance/Approximate Time:** 19 Miles/8 Hours

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

**Special Considerations:** Open water paddling. Spray skirt highly recommended. Not recommended on windy days. GPS, a good map and compass are highly recommended. 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.