

## S15 Day Paddles - Upper Keys

### North Barnes Sound Paddle Information Sheet

**Description:** Leave from a roadside launch before the Card Sound Bridge and paddle southwest and explore small bays, long mangrove shoreline, and beaches along Middle and Short Keys. The water clarity is poor to excellent, depending on prevailing winds. The beach on Short Key is a great place to spend the day, but be prepared to share it with a power boater or two, especially on the weekends. Watch for baby sharks and stingrays, and keep your eye open for a fleeting glimpse of an American Crocodile. This is their habitat. Your return is basically the same way as you came, but as you head back north, instead of going through the mangrove at Middle Key Cut, stay on the outside of the mangroves and go to the north eastern tip of Middle Key.

**Skill Level:** Advanced

**Distance/Approximate Time:** 11.6 Miles/5 Hours

**Launch Site:** Card Sound Road Paddle Launch

**Special Considerations:** Spray skirt recommended. Not recommended on windy days. Limited roadside parking at launch site.

#### 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.