

S16 Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips – Biscayne Bay

Key Biscayne Circumnavigation Information Sheet

Description: This paddle is a clockwise paddle around the shoreline of Key Biscayne. The key mainly consists of 1/3 Crandon County Park on the north end, 1/3 the City of Key Biscayne in the central section, and 1/3 Bill Bags Cape Florida State Park on the south end. Most of the entire east coast is beach. The last good place to take a break is the southeast beach area just before the Cape Florida Lighthouse. There is a short walk to the bathrooms on the other side of the island. The lighthouse is the oldest structure in the Miami-Dade area. Built in 1825, it was deactivated around 1878 when it was decided that the Fowey Rocks area was a better location for a lighthouse to protect ships from the local reefs and shallows.

Skill Level: Intermediate/Advanced

Distance/Approximate Time: 12.1 Miles/5.5 Hours

Launch Site: Crandon Park Marina Ramp

Special Considerations: Be mindful of powerboat traffic along the developed central west shore and near the Crandon Marina at the northwest tip of the key. Launch fee at Crandon County Park. Always check local weather before departure. Biscayne Key is exposed to open water on both sides of the key and the waters can get quite rough on windy days. Waters are generally calmer in the mornings, and pick up throughout the day.

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.