

S16 Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips – Biscayne Bay

Teachers Island Overnight Primitive Camping Trip Information Sheet

Description: This is a fairly short paddle through a very busy part of the Miami area. There are 3 bridges you must pass under, the Port Blvd bridge, the MacArthur Causeway, and the NE 15th St bridge. Once past the 3rd bridge, Teachers Island is the first island ahead. Teachers Island is also known as Pace Picnic Island. Camping is primitive, with little to no amenities. Best camping is on the west side of the island. It has a great view of sunsets, the Miami skyline and especially, the city lights after dark. Also the island is under one of the main flight paths for the Miami International Airport. Try to avoid the island on weekends, as it is known as a popular party spot.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 5 Miles each way/2.5 Hours each way

Launch Site: Virginia Outdoor Center

Special Considerations: Stay away from the south side of Dodge Island, which is a shipping port for freighters and large vessels. It is also a popular powerboating channel.. The north side of Dodge Island is reserved for the Cruise Lines.

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.