

S16 Day Paddles - ICW

Enchanted Island Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Oleta River State Park is a wild oasis in the middle of a heavily developed North Miami. The first half of this paddle is along an undeveloped section of the Oleta River. Don't be surprised to see large high rise buildings just beyond the mangroves that line the river. The second half of the paddle (after the Biscayne Blvd. and Dixie Highway Bridges) transitions you through an increasingly residential area, and ends in Enchanted Lake and around Castrus Island, which is in the lake's center. This paddle passes through multiple environments, the ICW, the Oleta River, and residential neighborhoods of North Miami.

Skill Level: Intermediate/Advanced

Distance/Approximate Time: 14 Miles/6 Hours

Launch Site: Oleta River State Park Paddle Launch

Special Considerations: Powerboats along the ICW, some oyster bars. State Park entry fee.

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.