

S16 Day Paddles - ICW

Sandspur Island Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Oleta River State Park is an oasis in the middle of heavily developed North Miami. Sandspur Island has a very popular beach area on the west side. The water is usually crystal clear due to its proximity to Haulover Inlet. There is also a popular sandbar off the northeast side of the island that powerboaters tend to raft up on. If you want to get away from the crowds, Little Sandspur, to the south, has a nice sandy, small beach landing and a great place to go for a swim. There are a couple of smaller spoil islands farther to the south to explore as well. Return is back to the launch site.

Skill Level: Novice/Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 4 Miles/2 Hours

Launch Site: Oleta River State Park Paddle Launch

Special Considerations: Powerboat traffic can be heavy, especially on weekends and holidays. Water can get quite choppy on windy days. Kayak rentals available at Park. 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.