

S16 Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips – Miami Canals

Coral Gables Waterway (C3) Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This paddle takes you along the shoreline and back yards of some exclusive suburban neighborhoods. You'll see some gorgeous homes and boats along the way and a few sculptures placed for passersby. Take the western turn into the Mahi Canal to see some unusual boathouses burrowed into the coral walls of the canal. In the winter months, manatees congregate at the end of this side channel for the warmer water. There are a few public launch point in the Coral Gables Waterway where one can stop along the way. The tidal current in the Waterway is light but will slow you down. During low tide stop at the shoals off Matheson Hammock to hang out in the water offshore, watch out for kite surfers on windy days.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 5.7Miles/3 Hours

Launch Site: Ruth Brian Owen Waterway Park Paddle Launch

Takeout Site: Matheson Hammock Park

Special Considerations: Open water paddling once you hit Biscayne Bay. Somewhat heavy powerboat traffic, especially on weekends.

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.