

S18 Day Paddles - Inland Lake/s

Lake Clarke Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This is an urban paddle on Lake Clarke, a freshwater lake that is fed (connected) via canals to the Intracoastal Waterway (via water control structure on the East side) and water districts north and south. It is maintained by the city of Lake Clarke Shores and the sole public access is via the Lake Clarke Shores Boat Ramp Park. The paddle is a three and a half mile loop through the backyards of waterfront properties. The back side is bordered by I-95 (you can hear the traffic). This Lake is next to the northernmost point of the Palm Beach County Blueways Chain of Lakes (Pine Lake is further north).

Skill Level: Novice

Distance/Approximate Time: 3.5 Miles/2 Hours

Launch Site: Lake Clarke Shores Ramp, located at the east end of Barbados Rd. There is a nice ADA accessible kayak launch on the north side of the ramp.

Special Considerations/ Safety Issues: A free decal dispensed by the City is necessary for use of the boat ramp. The lake is frequented by Jetskis, especially on weekends and holidays, which can produce a bit of turbulence. There is limited parking (3-4 vehicles) at the launch site.

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.