

S18 Day Paddles - Lakes

Lake Osborne Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This is an urban paddle on Lake Osborne, a large freshwater lake that is bordered by John Prince Park, wilderness areas, an airport and of course, lakefront residences. Waterways connect this Lake to Lake Clarke and Pine Lake to the North and Lakes Ida and Eden to the South making up the Palm Beach County Blueway Chain of Lakes. The paddle is really as long as you want it to be and depends on what you want to do. There are gentle sheltered routes that pass through the Square Lake area and another interesting loop that is located just north of the campgrounds. You will find many varieties of water birds and wildlife here. The more adventurous paddlers can paddle the open lake south all the way to "The Hive" restaurant where you can land your kayak to get food and drink.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 10 Miles/4.5 Miles

Launch Site: John Prince Park. There are two possible places to put in at the Park. The first is the new official kayak launch next to the boat ramps (free designated parking but a long walk to restrooms and the launch itself leaves much to be desired, requiring maneuvering between two rocky sea walls), and an unofficial location at the Southeast corner of Square Lake that also offers free parking and a better sheltered access to the water.

Special Considerations: Unfortunately this lake, like others, is also frequented by Jetskis and motorboats, especially on weekends and holidays, which can produce quite a bit of turbulence, however the lake is wide enough that you can maintain your distance from them.

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.