

Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - St Lucie River - North Fork

Mud Cove Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Launch at the full facilities Veterans Memorial Park Ramp, a free public park. Just before the Port Saint Lucie Blvd. bridge, take the cut over to Mud Cove. Go south through Mud Cove, and on to the North Fork of the Saint Lucie River. This part of the North Fork of the Saint Lucie river is an open stretch of water and subjected to power boat traffic. At the turn into Kitching Cove you face Club Med at Sandpiper Bay, the only Club Med in the United States and the only Club Med that accepts children. Continue north into Kitching cove and enter the dense mangrove narrow waterway that will take you back to the river. As you re-enter the river, you are at the area where the film Moonraker with James Bond was filmed.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Time: 6.1 Miles/Approximately 2.5 hours

Launch Site: Veterans Memorial Park Ramp 2200 SE Veterans Memorial Parkway, Port St Lucie, Fl

Special Considerations: Expect strong Southern currents after heavy rains. The water is brackish to salt water.

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.