

S22 Day Paddles - Banana River

Kelly Park Loop Information Sheet

Description: Head south in the Banana River towards the Thousand Islands. Keep an eye out for dolphins and watch osprey and pelicans dive for fish. After rounding the southern end of Newfound Harbor Drive, swing north into Sykes Creek. Pass underneath 520 bridge and tie off and get a bite to eat at Applebees Tiki Bar on the west side of the creek or take a break across the waterway at Kiwanis Park which has restrooms. Continue to head north entering into Ulumay Wildlife Sanctuary. Manatees and sea turtles frequent the calmer waters inside this creek. Cross under the 528 bridge and head east through the narrow canal back into the Banana River. Head south and go under the 528 bridge and return back to Kelly Park.

Skill Level: Advanced

Distance/Approximate Time: 18.5 Miles/7 Hours

Launch Site: Kelly Park

Special Considerations: 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.