

S22 Day Paddles - Lower ICW

North Spoil Islands Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This paddle is along some spoil islands created by dredging the Intra-coastal Waterway. Camping is allowed on most of these island (see spoilislandproject.org for more info), so there is plenty of opportunity to stop and take a break on their sandy beaches. Stay away from any islands that are posted as bird sanctuaries or bird nesting sites. The barrier island to the east is narrow in this section and the waves from the ocean side can often be heard on the Intracoastal.

Skill Level: Advanced

Distance/Approximate Time: 12.6 Miles/5 Hours

Launch Site: Turkey Creek - Pollak Park Ramp

Special Considerations: Stay along the shoreline while island hopping and out of the channel when possible due to powerboat traffic.

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.