

S26ICW - Intracoastal Waterway Day Paddles

Tiger Island Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This is a long marsh lined estuary paddle that circumnavigates the Tiger Island area. Turn south off the St Marys into the Jolly River and head southwest to the eastern tip of Martins Island. A little over a mile past Martins Island, hang a left and continue eastward back to the ICW.. There is a small beach are on the north side of the ramp to launch and takeout from, with a short portage to the parking lot, if you want to avoid the heavily used ramp.

Skill Level: Advanced

Distance/Approximate Time: 12.5 Miles/5 Hours

Launch Site: Dee Dee Bartels Ramp

Special Considerations: Strong tidal and river currents, along with heavy boat traffic in the ICW and St Marys River . Once off the river, this is a tide sensitive area and is best starting your paddle about 2 hours before high tide to take advantage of the currents. Navigation issues due to side creeks. Map, compass and GPS recommended.

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 stokes 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.