

S32 Day Paddles - Kissimmee Chain of Lakes

Rough Island Circumnavigation Information Sheet

Description: Rough Island, in Osceola County, is surrounded by Cypress Lake (3200 acres) Reedy Creek (yes, there is more than one Reedy Creek in Florida), Dead River (again, yes there is more than one Dead River in Florida), the eastern arm of Lake Hatchineha (6665 acres), and the Hatchineha Canal. It is part of South Florida Water Management District's Lower Reedy Creek Management Area. Cypress Lake is fed by Reedy Creek coming from Lake Russell, and Southport Canal coming from Lake Tohopekaliga, and is considered part of the headwaters to the Everglades. The island is mostly dry prairie with some Oak hammocks in the center. This is a great birdwatching area with eagles, ospreys, sandhill cranes, wood storks, limpkins, and a variety of water birds commonly seen.

Skill Level: Advanced

Distance/Approximate Time: 13.6 Miles/6 Hours

Launch Site: Cypress Lake Public Ramp

Special Considerations: Be mindful of airboaters along this route. Displaying a raised flag is wise. Cypress Lake is about 2.5 miles across and can get quite choppy on windy days.

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.