

S32 Day Paddles - Lake Kissimmee

Brahma Island Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Brahma Island is located at the south end of the 35,000 acre Lake Kissimmee. Inhabited by the Sarope tribe of Native Americans for nearly 12,000 years, the island is home to the first recorded Native American village in North America. In 1837, as General Zachary Taylor was in pursuit of Chief Alligator during the Second Seminole War, he and his men camped on what the future U.S. president Taylor nicknamed "Paradise Island." It has been owned by the Lightsey family since the 1880's, and is the largest lake island in the state. The island is currently leased as a hunting preserve, and is a combination of Oak hammock and marsh, making a great birdwatching area for eagles, osprey, limpkins and a variety of ibises, herons and cranes. You may even spot a variety of exotic species that roam the island.

Skill Level: Advanced

Distance/Approximate Time: 14.2 Miles/6 Hours

Launch Site: Shady Oaks Rec Area Coleman Landing Ramp

Special Considerations: Not recommended on windy days. Lake Kissimmee is a large shallow lake, and on windy days waves can reach 2-3 feet in height.

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.