

## Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Cedar Key Area

### Cedar Key Circumnavigation Information Sheet

**Description:** After launching at the city beach you'll pass the docks at the waterfront where tourists are dining alfresco while admiring your kayaks passing by. If you choose to duck under the fishing pier, watch out for lines and give the fishermen a wide berth. If you're lucky, as you paddle under the Airport Road bridge, you'll have small aircraft taking off and landing right over your head. Be careful as you wind around the numerous oyster bars and you'll see abundant birdlife sharing them. As you approach Bridge #3, on your left is Southern Cross Sea Farms, a clam processing facility with large tanks and interesting equipment. Then, when you paddle out the pass to the north of Scale Key, you'll see the actual clam farms in the shallow Gulf waters. You'll see Dog Island on your left as you curve around back to the beach. Native vegetation is predominately black needlerush with some smooth cordgrass.

**Skill Level:** Intermediate

**Distance/Time:** 7.7 miles/3 ½ hours

**Launch Site:** City Park Beach

**Special Considerations:** Due to the numerous oyster bars, and mudflats, you should paddle on a high tide only.

#### **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.