

Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Cedar Key Area

Outer Keys Loop Information Sheet

Description: Enjoy a visit to beautiful offshore islands, Atsena Otie, Seahorse, and Snake Keys. Suitable for experienced paddlers comfortable paddling about 12 miles in open water. View abundant wildlife, scenic unspoiled islands, and historic lighthouse as you take in the full beauty of Cedar Key and its natural wonders.

Skill Level: Intermediate/Advanced

Distance/Time: 10.7 Miles/5 Hours

Launch Site: City Beach in downtown Cedar Key

Special Considerations: If the tide is high enough, you can paddle through the middle of Atsena Otie. Not suitable for canoes, 14 foot minimum length kayaks only with dual bulkheads or flotation recommended due to open waterpassage. Spray skirt 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 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.