

Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Cedar Key Area

Scenic Cedar Key Loop Information Sheet

Description: An exploration of the scenic waters that are seen driving into Cedar Key between Number 4 and Number 3 bridges. Begin at the boat ramp at the Number 4 bridge and meander east through oyster bars and forested islands towards the Gulf of Mexico. Head back west and under Bridge Number 3 to an area of typical Cedar Key backwaters, with homes, businesses, aquaculture facilities, the Tiki Bar, grassy islands and oyster bars. Loop back to Number 4 Bridge for take out. Native vegetation is predominately black needlerush with some smooth cordgrass.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Time: 4.6 miles/1 ½ - 2 hours

Launch Site: Take CR 24 west off HWY 19. Cross the first bridge coming in to Cedar Key and take a left on SW 154th Ave. Turn north and go to the ramp at the end of the road.

Special Considerations: Paddle on 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.