

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

## Shell Mound Loop Information Sheet

**Description:** Circumnavigating Hog Island, this paddle is on the edge of the Gulf and has both protected and open water. Native vegetation consists primarily black needlerush with some smooth cordgrass in the marsh, and southern red cedar, slash pines, and cabbage palms in the island hammocks

**Skill Level:** Intermediate/Advanced

**Distance/Time:** 3.1 Miles/ Approximately 2 Hours

**Launch Site:** Take SR 24 from US 19 to CR 347 (approximately 18 miles), turn right on CR 347, proceed to CR 326 and take a left to Shell Mound. Continue to the ramp at the end of CR 326.

**Special Considerations:** Open water passage. Paddle on high tide only. 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.