

Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Yankeetown Area

Spoil Island Primitive Camping Trip Information Sheet

Description: Experience camping overnight on the Florida's Saltwater Circumnavigational Paddling Trail by paddling a 2.5 mile open water crossing from the Bird Park to a Barge Canal spoil island. Pitch your tent beneath the scrub which frames a stunning open vista of the Gulf. Fishing is excellent in this area. Remember your fishing gear, binoculars, and a camera. Prepare for bugs if the wind drops. All campers **must** be gear/food/water independent. Please note this is **primitive** camping. There are no grills, picnic tables, water, or bathroom facilities available. Please practice "Leave No Trace" camping. Cars can be left overnight at Bird Park or the boat ramp parking area at the end of the road.

Skill Level: Intermediate/Advanced

Distance/Time: 2.5 Miles each way / 1 1/2 Hours Each Way

Launch Site: Bird park on right at the end of CR 40.

Special Considerations: Open water. Sprayskirt 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.