

## S8 Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - ICW

## Anclote Key Paddle Trip Information Sheet

**Description:** Anclote Key is a four mile long barrier island off the coast of Tarpon Springs. The Gulf side of the island has sandy beaches and camping is allowed on the island. There is an old light house at the southern tip of the key. Most paddlers launch from Fred Howard Park beach (fee of \$5 for parking) and paddle the two miles to Anclote Key, visit the lighthouse (if it is open) and then paddle around to the sandy beaches or in from the backside.

**Skill Level:** Intermediate due to open water paddling

**Distance/Approximate Time:** 3 Miles each way/1.5 Hours each way

**Launch Site:** Fred Howard Park Beach Paddle Launch

**Special Considerations:** The open water can get rough, so rescue skills are a must. Particularly during the weekends, motorboat traffic out of Tarpon Springs can be very heavy. Mosquitoes and no-see-ums can be horrific in the trees during the summer.

### 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.