

S8 Day Paddles - ICW

Maximo Park Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This paddle trail takes you from Maximo Park Bird Reserve, (great for birders), around Indian Key, under the 54th Ave South Bridge, and up to Clam Bayou, and Gulfport. Except for Indian Key and Clam Bayou, most of the shoreline is developed.

Skill Level: Intermediate/Advanced

Distance/Approximate Time: 7.1 Miles/4 Hours

Launch Site: Maximo Park Paddle Launch

Takeout Site: Gulfport Beach Recreational Area Paddle Launch

Special Considerations: Weekends can be difficult for this trip because of very heavy motor boat traffic and limited parking. Clam Bayou is a nice preserve but very tide sensitive (they do have a boat launch there but it is hard to find). Paddle in medium to high tide. This paddle requires shuttling vehicles.

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.