

S8 Day Paddles - ICW

Treasure Island Circumnavigation Information Sheet

Description: Veterans War Memorial Park, fondly known by locals as Bay Pines, has a lot going for it. It has a small but very nice kayak launch next to pavilion No. 5, rinse water, and a picnic table close by. This paddle heads south on the Intracoastal Waterway and out into the Gulf. Once on the Gulf side, head north. There is plenty of opportunity to take a break or swim along the beaches of Treasure Island before heading back inside through John's Pass.

Skill Level: Advanced

Distance/Approximate Time: 10.5 Miles/6 Hours

Launch Site: Veterans War Memorial Park Paddle Launch

Special Considerations: There is very heavy power boat traffic in the channels, especially on the weekends. This is an open water paddle for experienced paddlers only. Do not use the concrete power boat ramp at Veterans War Memorial Park.

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.