

S15UK Day Paddles - Upper Keys

Dove Creek Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This is a quiet creek located in the neighborhood of Harry Harris Park in Tavernier. Not many people know about this paddle so you will usually be the only paddlers on a given day. When you first launch you can go to the left and explore Dove Lake. There is not much life in this lake because historically it flowed through to the bayside of Key Largo but the flow was cut off when Flaglers' railroad and then US 1 were constructed. You will see upside down jellyfish and some bird life. Head back down the creek and enjoy the beautiful, aquarium like creek filled with hundreds of Parrotfish and snapper and grunts. One part of the creek is canopied over with red mangroves. You will pass some homes on Peace and Dove Avenues (no power boats are allowed above this canal) and it is just a short distance to the Atlantic. It is fun to tie up to the mangroves and swim or snorkel above the sandy patches.

Skill Level: Novice/Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 3.9 Miles/2 Hours

Launch Site: Key Largo - Dove Creek Paddle Launch

Special Considerations: One way or the other you will most likely encounter paddling against the current but it is not that difficult. To extend this paddle, you can go left after exiting this creek to Snappers Restaurant, go right and follow the shoreline to Harry Harris County Park where you can take out at the boat ramps and walk back to your car, or paddle out to Dove Key.

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.