

## S8 Day Paddles - Hillsborough River

### Hillsborough River/Davis Islands Paddle Information Sheet

**Description:** Heading down the river you get a great opportunity to see the city of Tampa from an entirely different perspective. As you paddle down to the mouth of the river, it's impressive how the city's buildings tower above. Past Tampa University and its silver turrets, past the new restaurants and the newly installed riverfront walk. Continue down the west side of Davis Island to avoid boat traffic in the east channel. You can explore the canals of Davis Island and view the houses of the rich and famous. Rest stops after launching include Julian B Lane Park on your right, just past the Laurel St Bridge, and a small beach area on the right at the junction of the S Plant Ave/Bayshore Blvd bridge.

**Skill Level:** Intermediate due to heavy boat traffic and open water paddling in Hillsborough Bay.

**Distance/Approximate Time:** 5.4 Miles/3 Hours

**Launch Site:** Rick's on the River Marina Ramp

**Takeout Site:** Davis Island Beach Paddle Launch in the Seaplane Basin

**Special Considerations:** Heavy powerboat traffic in the channel. Fees for launching at Rick's.

#### 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.