

## S9 Day Paddles - Little Manatee River

## Ruskin Inlet Paddle Information Sheet

**Description:** This area consists of a lot of large and small mangrove islands. Just as in life, if you know where you are going, it's not too difficult. However, it is easy to get lost in this mess of islands, with houses close by. You paddle about 1/2 mile thru a maze of canals lined with houses to get to the river. There you will see Snake Island on the right and the Copula House (so named for it's copula) on the left. This marks the entrance to the river. The path takes you around Devil's Elbow and the east end of Goat Island. If you don't have a map and/ or GPS - compass, you can lose your bearings.

**Skill Level:** Intermediate due to boat traffic

**Distance/Approximate Time:** 5.5 Miles/3 Hours

**Launch Site:** Ruskin Commongood Park Ramp

**Special Considerations:** Heavy powerboat traffic, especially on weekends

### 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.