

## S15UK Day Paddles - Upper Keys

## Rock Harbor Paddle Information Sheet

**Description:** This is a shallow lagoon with mangrove creeks. To extend the paddle, go down the canal between Corrine Place & Lorelane Place and you will see the dolphins at Island Dolphin Care. Please just observe them and do not try to call them over or attempt to touch them. Either paddle back to the lagoon or continue down the canal and exit on the ocean and make a right to head south past Kawama condominium and re-enter the lagoon to resume your paddle back to the launch site.

**Skill Level:** Novice

**Distance/Approximate Time:** 2.3 Miles/1.5 Hours

**Launch Site:** Key Largo - Harbor Drive Paddle Launch

**Special Considerations:** Best paddled on a medium to high tide. This lagoon is very shallow but should be fine at all times for paddlecraft. The launch site for this paddle is in a neighborhood so please be respectful of the locals.

### 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.