

## S23 Day Paddles - ICW

### High Tide Bird Rookery Paddle Information Sheet

**Description:** This trip to the rookery begins with a peaceful paddle through the mangrove forest. The remainder of the paddle is the same as the regular Bird Rookery Paddle route. You will follow along a seawall built by the Turnbull Settlement in 1766-76 and also take in a view of homes along Riverside Drive. The route passes under the North Causeway and through the New Smyrna Beach City Marina. Watch for big boats because you will be at the edge of the Intracoastal Waterway. The rookeries are two mangrove islands where water birds choose to nest year-round. You may see birds on the nest during mating season – February-June. Pelicans inhabit the area the rest of the year. The islands were protected by Theodore Roosevelt – a bird enthusiast – in 1908. These are the only two rookery islands in the area that are protected by Presidential order. Both islands are just east of the NSB Marina.

**Skill Level:** Novice

**Distance/Approximate Time:** 3.1 Miles/2 Hours

**Launch Site:** Marine Discovery Center Paddle Launch

**Special Considerations:** Due to the prevalence of oyster bars, it is recommend paddling at medium to high tide only. Keep your distance from nesting birds.

#### 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.