

23 Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - ICW

Chicken Island Primitive Camping Trip Information Sheet

Description: This is a short paddle to an interesting high spoil island in the middle of the ICW. There is a nice beach landing on the east end with a small camping area and some shade. There is a small Tiki table at the campsite that is convenient for cooking meals. You'll find a trail behind the camping area that leads to a small open plateau at the top of the island. Dolphins tend to congregate in front of the campsite area and can be quite entertaining.

Skill Level: Novice/Intermediate due to boat loaded with camping gear.

Distance/Approximate Time: .7 Miles one way/.5 Hours

Launch Site: Callalisa Park Paddle Launch

Campsite: Chicken Island

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.