

S23 Day Paddles - ICW

Disappearing Island Paddle Information Sheet

Description: After launching, take a left up the Intracoastal Waterway and stay close to the right shore, out of the channel. Pass the first cut you come to on your right and follow the shoreline to the tip of the island. Round the tip and stay inside the north cut and take a left out toward the Halifax River. Stay inside the string of small islands, including Piddlers Island and follow the shoreline south. The southeast area of the island, right across from the Inlet, has plenty of beach to get out and stretch your legs before heading back to the takeout.

Skill Level: Intermediate due to strong currents in Ponce Inlet

Distance/Approximate Time: 5.5 Miles/2.5 Hours

Launch Site: Swoop Ramp

Special Considerations: Strong currents in the Ponce Inlet area. Heavy powerboat traffic on the ICW, Ponce Inlet and Halifax River, especially on weekends and holidays. Try to time your paddle near the change of tides.

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.