

S23 Day Paddles - ICW

Indian River South Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This paddle begins at the ramp or public floating docks at 162 North Causeway. Along the way, you may see a historic marker for the old wharf that was part of the New Smyrna Settlement. After passing under the South Causeway Bridge, look for a monument on the west shore at low tide. You also may see remnants of the coquina stone wharf that was the center of the settlement and later was destroyed during the Civil War. After passing Yacht Club Island, look for an area of vegetation among docks on the right. This is known as the Gabordy Canal. Al Capone had a canal-front home here at the height of his career.

Skill Level: Intermediate due to heavy powerboat traffic along the ICW.

Distance/Approximate Time: 4.6 Miles/2.5 Hours

Launch Site: North Causeway West Ramp

Special Considerations: Heavy powerboat traffic along the ICW. Stay out of the channel and paddle along the shoreline. Try to use the winds and tidal current to your advantage when planning.

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.