

## S23 Day Paddles - ICW

## Piddler Island Paddle Information Sheet

**Description:** This is a short trip up the Halifax River. Stay along the undeveloped western shoreline and out of the channel. Right after Piddler Island hang a left through the pass and follow the shoreline on your right to circle the island before returning to the launch site. After your paddle, visit the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum which is a short walk from the launch area. The lighthouse was built in 1887 and is the tallest light-house in Florida. Climb to the top for an incredible view.

**Skill Level:** Intermediate due to strong currents in Ponce Inlet

**Distance/Approximate Time:** 2.9 Miles/1.5 Hours

**Launch Site:** Ponce Inlet Boating Facility Ramp

**Special Considerations:** Strong currents in and around Ponce Inlet. Heavy power-boat traffic, especially on weekends and holidays. Try to time your paddle close to the change in 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.