

## S23Day Paddles - Canaveral National Seashore - Mosquito Lagoon

### Shipyard Island Paddling Trail Information Sheet

**Description:** This trail is marked with white PVC pipe numbered markers, but bringing a GPS and a good map and compass is recommended. The paddling trail is lined with mangrove hammock, plus much cactus is a notable feature. Watch the tides, at low tide it will be necessary to pull your kayak or canoe in some areas. The trail is a loop, exit at the same spot - launch/boat ramp directly across the lagoon - or continue paddling on Mosquito Lagoon. **Wildlife** include alligators, turtles, and crabs; and schools of mullet. Good for birdwatching, You may see hawks, eagles, and osprey as well as ibis and other water birds.

**Skill Level:** Novice

**Distance/Approximate Time:** 2.8 Miles/2 Hours

**Launch Site:** North Apollo Beach Ramp (The kayak launch is at the northern end of the parking lot.)

**Special Considerations:** Recommend paddling on medium to high tide. Be careful of powerboat traffic crossing the channel to and from the entrance/exit. Map available at the Apollo Visitors Center, where canoe rentals are also available. Wear appropriate shoes, especially when paddling on lower 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.