

S15UK Day Paddles - Upper Keys

Swash Keys (Upper) Paddle Information Sheet

Description: These islands are located within Everglades National Park just north of the Intracoastal Waterway. They are pretty keys surrounded by clear, turquoise waters. The trout fishing is good around the islands. It is not permissible to land anywhere but there are shallow sandy spots to stop for taking breaks. An anchor would be helpful.

Skill Level: Advanced

Distance/Approximate Time: 14.1 Miles/7 Hours

Launch Site: Key Largo - Sunset Point Park Ramp

Special Considerations: This is a long paddle with open water crossings not suitable for recreational paddlers. Sea kayaks are recommended. These islands are on the way to North Nest Key where landing and camping are allowed.

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.