

S15MK Day Paddles - Middle Keys

Tavernier Key Circumnavigation Information Sheet

Description: This is an open water paddle on the ocean side only to be done on days when the wind is down. Usually there is an abundance of marine wildlife around Tavernier Key. Tavernier Key is a private island (for sale for \$10 million for 31 acres total of which 17 of them are considered buildable uplands). The vegetation is very thick but there is a small opening on the southwest corner. The island is surrounded by shallow flats and often there will be locals anchored close to shore in powerboats, snorkeling, swimming and hanging out.

Skill Level: Intermediate due to open Water

Distance/Time: 5 Miles/3 Hours

Launch Site: Tavernier - Harry Harris County Park Ramp

Special Considerations: Open water paddling . Not recommended on windy days. There is very skinny water surrounding the whole island at low tide.

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.