

S10 Day Paddles - Tampa Bay

Information Sheet

Description: This paddle on the south side of Tampa Bay takes you across the mouth of the Manatee River, past the opening to Sarasota Bay and then along the northern tip of Anna Maria to the northernmost point and back again. It's a great place to view the Skyway Bridge. This is an open water paddle, although much of the crossing is through shallow water with extensive sea grass visible below the kayaks. There is a nice beach at the northern tip to take a break.

Skill Level: Advanced

Distance/Approximate Time: 13.1 Miles/ 6 Hours

Launch Site: Emerson Point Paddle Launch (western tip)

Special Considerations: This paddle crosses several busy boat channels. Be alert for fast moving motor boats and do not linger in the boat channels. Open water paddling.

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.