

S10 Day Paddles - Tampa Bay

Robinson Preserve Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This paddle takes you through the eastern section of the Robinson Preserve, into Tampa Bay, through Perico Bayou, and back into the Robinson Preserve. Except for a mile and a half paddle in Tampa Bay, this is a protected paddle which is suitable for both sea and recreational kayaks.. Paddle under the foot bridge and turn north as you near the lookout tower. The look out tower is very scenic and is a worthwhile stop. Paddle under the foot bridge and wind your way through an opening into Tampa Bay. Turn left and paddle down the shore along the Robinson Preserve until you come to the opening to Perico Bayou on the left. Turn left at the power lines cutting across Perico Bayou and enter the mangrove tunnel near the power lines. Once back in the Robinson Preserve, turn right which will allow you to paddle into Palma Sola Bay. This is a good turn around point. Then back through the Robinson Preserve to the launch site.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 6.75 Miles/3 Hours

Launch Site: Robinson Preserve Paddle Launch

Special Considerations: While the Robinson Preserve can be paddled at all water levels, the section of Tampa Bay along the Robinson Preserve and Perico Bayou are quite shallow and are best paddled at medium to high tide. For those preferring protected water, a very nice paddle can be done by staying entirely within the Robinson Preserve. Staying in the preserve allows for an out-and-back paddle of up to approximately 3 miles each way.

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 guide's 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.