

S14ENPF Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips Everglades National Park - Flamingo

Hells Bay Chickee Camping Trip Information Sheet

Description: The trail to Hell's Bay is marked with over 160 PVC posts. The first part is through a narrow and winding mangrove creek/tunnel, and after 3 miles it starts to open up to a series of bays connected by creeks. Bring binoculars to help locating some of the markers and chickees along the way and to check out the wildlife.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Time: 6.6 Miles Each Way/6 Hours Each Way

Launch Site: Everglades National Park Main Park Rd. - Hells Bay Paddle Launch

Special Considerations: Consult the ENP website when planning a trip. Backcountry Permit required for camping. Check water levels and navigability with Park Rangers before departure. Maps and GPS recommended. As with all chickees, unloading kayaks can be difficult on low 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.