

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

Johnson Key Chickee Camping Trip Information Sheet

Description: Johnson Key Chickee is out in the middle of Florida Bay. Once leaving the Flamingo Saltwater Basin, head on a 172 degree course to Johnson Key Chickee. Keep Frank Key to your east and Catfish Key and Clive Key to your west. This chickee is on the west side of Johnson Key and has an incredible view of Florida Bay and it's sunrises and sunsets.

Skill Level: Intermediate/Advanced due to open water

Distance/Time: 6.7 Miles Each Way/2.5 Hours Each Way

Launch Site: Everglades National Park Flamingo Visitors Center Saltwater Basin Ramp

Special Considerations: This chickee is usually covered with guano, as it a favorite roosting spot for seabirds. When dry, it is powdery and not too bad, but can be a slimy mess after a rain. The covered tent areas fare a little better. Florida Bay, although a huge bay, is very shallow and in some cases, on low tides, you have to stick to established channels to get to your destination, and a direct route isn't possible. ENP Backcountry Permits required.

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.