

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

Mud Lake Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This marked trail starts out in Coot Bay and takes a narrow creek/mangrove tunnel along the western shore over to Mud Lake. Paddle west across Mud Lake and you'll find another narrow creek on it's southwest shore that leads to Bear Lake. Just before entering Bear Lake take an eastward turn on Buttonwood Canal that leads back toward Coot Bay. Bear left to get back into Coot Bay

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Time: 7.5 Miles/ 3 - 4Hours

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

Special Considerations: Check water levels with Park Rangers and to see if trail is clear. It can get windy on Coot Bay Pond and Mud Lake due to the size of the open water. There are very few dry areas to get out of your boat for a break.

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.