



BLUEWAY TRAIL; PALMA SOLA BAY TRAIL

PADDLING SAFETY & TRIP PREPARATION

Information below is from Paddle Manatee, www.mymanatee.org

HAVE A GREAT DAY! BE SURE TO MIND YOUR WILDLIFE MANNERS

- Practice “passive observation” and watch from a distance – 20 – 30 yards.
- Take pictures for your memories, do not take anything from the wildlife habitats.
- **Manatees:** Wear polarized glasses on the waterway as it makes seeing objects below the surface easier to observe. Look for the swirl. This swirl occurs when a manatee dives and looks like a large footprint on the water's surface or it looks like a half moon, if the manatee is traveling. It is illegal to feed or give them water.
- **Birds;** Do not go ashore at any posted islands. Sometimes birds roost or nest in places that are not posted. As a rule, remain 20-30 yards offshore. You are too close if the birds stop what they are doing to watch you or begin to move away; you are at their “flushing distance,” and you need to move slowly farther away and keep paddles low.

OBEY THE LAW

- United States Coast Guard (USCG) approved, readily accessible and wearable personal flotation device (PFD) for each occupant.
- Personal Flotation Devices (PFD's) must be worn by all occupants under six years of age.
- Marine whistle, bell, or horn (USCG approved).
- A Florida fishing license is required for persons 16 years of age and older.
<https://myfwc.com/license/recreational/saltwater-fishing/>

NAVIGATION

- DAYTIME USE ONLY – Night navigation equipment is not provided.
- EMERGENCY CONTACT – Bring your fully charged cell phone encased in a waterproof bag.
- NAVIGATION - Use provided charts and/or GPS.

PADDLING TIPS: PLAY IT SAFE & KNOW THE WATER

- CHECK THE MARINE FORECAST - <https://marine.weather.gov/> for Tampa Bay/Anna Maria Island.
- KNOW CURRENT CONDITIONS - Check tide tables and plan your trip accordingly so as not to get stranded in a backwater area at low tide. <https://tides4fishing.com/us/florida-gulf-coast/anna-maria-key-city-pier>
- USE CAUTION IN OPEN WATER –
 - Stay close to shore.
 - Use extreme caution when traveling under a bridge; currents can be swift and watch for fishing lines.
 - Watch for motorboats and personal watercraft; stay to the right and turn the bow (front) into the wake.
- TRIP LENGTH - Allow a minimum of two miles per hour paddling time under normal conditions.
- PLANNING - Let someone know your plans, where you are going, who is with you, and when you plan to be back. Paddle in a group or with a friend. Last boat should be most experienced paddler.
- BRING DRINKING WATER - Bring at least one gallon per person/per day.
- WEAR SHOES – BRING SUNSCREEN – STASH YOUR TRASH
- FOOD - Bring food and gear in watertight containers tied to your boat.
- Secure your car and take your keys with you.
- HYPOTHERMIA - Warning signs include uncontrolled shivering, slurred speech, lack of coordination, and poor concentration. Get victim into a shelter and remove wet clothes. Give fluids and food until warmed. Hypothermia can occur in summer with wind and rain.



QUESTIONS about your Kayak or SUP Rental

Call Just4Fun 941-896-7884; Shop Hours 9:00am – 4:30pm

Please call shop 15 – 30 minutes

before you are ready for kayak/SUP pick-up – Thank you!

EMERGENCY – Call 911

Source of Paddle Manatee information; Mymanatee.org 11/16/2021