

Butler Island Primitive Camping

Description: Experience camping overnight on the Big Bend Saltwater Paddling Trail by joining a group paddling from the Shired Island Campground to Butler Island, winding about five miles between oyster bars along the shallow coastline. Pitch your tent beneath a canopy of live oaks, palms and a rare stand of mature cedars which frame a stunning open vista of the Gulf. Perfect spot to sling a hammock! Butler Island has a grill and picnic table with plenty of room for tents. Wildlife viewing and fishing is excellent in this area along with memorable sunrises. Remember your fishing gear, binoculars, and a camera. Prepare for bugs if the wind drops and keep an eye out for poison ivy. All participants must be gear/food/water independent. Please note this is **primitive** camping. Cars will be left overnight at the Shired Island Campground.

Distance/Time: 5 Miles/ 2 Hours

Skill Level: Intermediate/Advanced

Indigenous Wildlife: Eagles, ospreys, various shorebirds and waterfowl, mullet, redfish, spotted sea trout, raccoons, otters, bottle-nosed dolphins, blue crabs and horseshoe crabs.

Launch Site: From HWY 19 take CR 351 (Horseshoe Beach Rd.), turn onto CR 357 (on left), continue on CR 357 to Shired Island Campground on the right just before the end of the road.

NOTE: Great care has been taken to ensure this guides accuracy, but weather, tides, and water conditions can change rapidly and create hazardous conditions. Routes may change due to weather considerations. Users should consult NOAA Charts for navigation. Paddlers should have all proper safety equipment and check conditions before departure. All participants are required to wear PFDs while on water based events .

