

Atlantic Kayak Tours

Intermediate Norwalk Islands

Tour Description

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Meeting Time: 10:30 AM to get on the water about 11:00

Meeting Place: Saugatuck River (see map on other side)

Distance: 8-15 miles

Skill Level: This trip is designed for experienced paddlers with good endurance. Calm to moderate sea conditions expected, but if windy the Sound can be very choppy.

Equipment: Always dress for the water temperature, not the air temperature. Bring extra clothing. If you bring your own kayak it must be a minimum of 14 feet long and have bulkheads.

Lunch: Bring a lunch and plenty to drink for our rest stops.

Note: There are no restrooms at the put-in, so make a stop on the way.

Directions: From western Connecticut take Rt. 95 North to exit 17 on the Connecticut Turnpike. At the light go straight onto Park St. and follow the directions below.

From eastern Connecticut take Rt. 95 South to exit 17 on the Connecticut Turnpike. Turn right onto Saugatuck Ave. and make the second left onto Park St. and follow the directions below.

From N.Y. and N.J., take Rt. 95 North to exit 17 on the Connecticut Turnpike. At the light go straight onto Park St. and follow the directions below.

Continue: Park street will turn into Charles Street. Go to the end of Charles Street. Make a left onto Riverside Ave. and make the next right turn onto Bridge Street. Take the second right (Underhill Parkway) where you will see a boat ramp sign. Underhill Parkway turns into Charlotte Place.

Note: There has been construction and the access has changed during this process. Look out for signage. The boat ramp and parking is directly under Rt. 95.

By train from Manhattan: Take Metro North to Westport station (see map on other side). Call (212) 532-4900 for train information. Taxi is usually available at station or you can walk from the station.

lat/lon: N41.1205/W73.3666

Description

The Norwalk Islands were created during the last ice age and have since been home to dairy farms, mansions and now large populations of waterfowl. The Nature Conservancy recognized the significance of these islands and has purchased Chimon Island to create a National Wildlife Preserve.

The Connecticut shoreline is mostly low sandy beaches. The Sound gives the Norwalk Islands, semi-protected paddling. If the wind is strong, this can be an exciting trip out to the islands, but the waves never gets too large.

Starting at the Saugatuck River, we will paddle to the mouth of the river then cross over to Cockenoe Island. This will give us an early lunch stop and opportunity to rest or practice kayaking skills before our journey continues. Then, as time and conditions allow we will paddle past some of the other Norwalk Islands. Herons, egrets, oystercatchers, osprey, and a variety of ducks have been sighted on previous trips. The Norwalk Islands is one of the most popular areas for sea kayakers.

