



SHUYAK ISLAND STATE PARK Kayaking and Packrafting Routes



Projected Coordinate System:
NAD 83, State Plane Alaska, Zone 5
1:79,000

0 0.5 1 Miles
0 0.5 1 Kilometers

Trail/Mileage (Red line)
Public-Use Cabin (Cabin icon)
Portage Route (Double line)
Stream (Blue line)

Public-Use Cabin (Cabin icon)
High Point (Triangle icon)

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This map represents differential GPS data collected during the Alaska State Parks Trail Inventory Project that was started in conjunction with National Park Service (NPS) Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program and Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) Information Resources Management (IRM). Trail Data was gathered with the assistance from Mat-Su Alaska State Parks staff.

Kodiak District Office: (907) 486-3320. Alaska State Parks: www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks. Emergency: 911.

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SHUYAK ISLAND STATE PARK

Sea Kayak and Packraft Routes

Big Bay - Neketa Bay Loop

From Big Bay paddle to the SW arm of the bay and portage the hump between Big Bay and Neketa Bay. During high tide, it is a very short, easy portage. (The hump floods completely over during tides larger than 15 ft*.) At low tide, the portage is longer and muddier. Paddle SW out of Neketa Bay. At the entrance, head north. Follow the shoreline to Eagle Cape, then paddle west into Big Bay. This loop can be done in either direction and takes 3 to 5 hours in a kayak. Be cautious when paddling along the outer coast, especially at Eagle Cape.

Big Bay - North Cape Loop

From Big Bay paddle out the west entrance of the bay along the northern shoreline. Head north at the entrance and follow the shoreline to North Cape. Paddle east to Dead Bird Beach. A short, unmarked portage through the rye grass brings you into the back lagoon of the NW arm of Big Bay. This portage is short at high tide; it is longer and muddier at low tide. This Loop can be done in either direction and takes 3 to 5 hours in a kayak be cautious when paddling along the outer coast, especially at North Cape

Big Bay - Western Inlet Loop

From Big Bay paddle to the long beach between the NW and NE arms of Big Bay. There is a portage trail, marked on both sides with buoys, leading from Big Bay into Western Inlet Portage this 1/8 mile trail, then paddle along the shoreline to Dead Bird Beach. A short, unmarked portage through the rye grass leads to the back lagoon of the NW arm of Big Bay. The many islands at the entrance to Western Inlet can be explored. Whales are often present on the outer coast.

Skiff Passage

From Big Bay paddle to the far end of the NE arm of Big Bay. Follow the river-like waterway into Middle Lagoon, paddle across the lagoon, and follow the passage out. Skiff Passage goes completely dry at low tide and best for paddling around high tides of 12 ft* or more.

Water floods into Skiff Pass from two directions: It flows north from Big Bay into Middle Lagoon and south from the outer coast into Middle Lagoon. When the tide turns from rising to falling, the water will continue to flow north from Big Bay for some time after high tide, but the tide from the outer waters will reverse direction and flow north out of Middle Lagoon back to the outer waters. Consequently, it is possible to paddle the entire length of Skiff Passage with the current when traveling North from Big Bay to the outer coast. To do this, you should aim to be in Middle Lagoon just after the tide has turned.

When traveling in the opposite direction (south from the outer coast into Big Bay) you can paddle into Middle Lagoon with the current, but you will be going against the current from the lagoon to Big Bay. The current will be slowest just after the tide has turned, but it is possible to paddle against it at most other times.

Carry Inlet - Carshan Point - Shangin Bay Loop

From Carry Inlet paddle north out of the entrance of Carry Inlet along the eastern shoreline to Carshan Pt. Go around the point and paddle SE along the shoreline into Shangin Bay. Paddle approximately 2/3 of the length of Shangin Bay, then paddle west into the large arm of the bay. At the far NW end of this arm there is a marked portage trail leading into Carry Inlet. This is a short portage at high tide, but is not recommended at low tide. If this trip is done in one day, you should paddle out of Carry Inlet as the tide is ebbing and be paddling into Shangin Bay as the tide is flooding. The narrowness of the bay creates a strong tidal current that would be difficult to paddle against. It is also necessary to enter the western arm of Shangin Bay at *slack tide*. This entrance becomes a white water river at flood tide and would be dangerous to negotiate in a kayak. The complete loop takes 5 to 8 hours in a kayak. Use caution! Carshan Point is very exposed and the seas are frequently rough in this area

*Tide heights have been adjusted as per Shuyak correction factors.

Shuyak Island offers sea kayaking and packrafting for both the novice and the expert. The inner bays (Neketa Bay, Big Bay, Western Inlet, Carry Inlet, and Shangin Bay) are well protected from weather and generally remain calm enough for novice paddlers. The outer coast is exposed, and large swells, rough seas, high winds, and heavy surf are common there.

ONLY SKILLED KAYAKERS AND PACKRAFTERS SHOULD PADDLE THE OUTSIDE WATERS.

Under all circumstances be alert to changing wind, tides, and weather. The condition of the seas can deteriorate quickly.

For this area, in general, westerly winds cause outside waters to be rough and southeasterly winds bring calmer seas.