

Sarasota County

Rivers - Launch Sites - Trips

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Myakka Lake State Park

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Launch Site Address	Type & Amenities	Places Close By	Gazetteer
13207 S.R. 72 Sarasota, Florida	\$5 per car to enter park	Maykka Lake	Pg 97, B3

Directions

Go South on I-75 past Sarasota. Get off on county road 72 and head East. In about 10 miles you will come to the Maykka River State Park sign on the left. Take a left and drive about 4 miles before reaching the camp ground.

Sights to See

Upper Myakka Lake is the beginning for paddlers, and the river is generally paddleable year-round from this point. Upper Myakka Lake empties into a river channel bordered by open grasses and some hardwood hammocks. The river then passes below FL 72 and becomes much less traveled by boaters as it enters the state park wilderness preserve. Entrance into the preserve is limited to 30 people per day, and a permit is required.

Suggested Trips

The Myakka flows riverine for another 1.5 miles before opening into Lower Myakka Lake, which narrows and then opens again into the Deep Hole, which has been certified to be at least 142 feet deep. Below Deep Hole, the river resumes its riverine characteristics and leaves Myakka River State Park. It then makes a winding, southerly course for Charlotte Harbor, where it empties into the Gulf. The section below the park is little paddled, due to a long run of 16 miles combined with a long shuttle. The river down here is quite scenic, and part of the riverbank is protected by the Carlton Tract, land owned by Sarasota County. After passing below the I-75 overpass, the Myakka reaches Snook Haven and a good place to take out. Below this point, the river quickly widens and becomes the domain of the powerboat set.