

## S22 Day Paddles - Upper ICW

## Turnbull Creek Paddle Information Sheet

**Description:** Paddling Turnbull Creek from the salt marsh at the mouth of the creek and deep into the fresh water biosphere observing the numerous terrapins is a magical experience - where it is easy to imagine the pumpkin and maize growing Ais Indians, bold Spanish explorers or runaway Italians and Greeks fleeing the disastrous Turnbull plantation. Turnbull Creek is part of the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. The lower part of the creek is a vast flood plain which feeds into the northern part of the Indian River Lagoon. Turnaround is at the HWY 1 bridge.

**Skill Level:** Intermediate

**Distance/Approximate Time:** 8.8 Miles/4 Hours

**Launch Site:** Scottsmoor Landing Ramp

**Special Considerations:** None

### Skill Level Definitions

**Beginner:** New to paddling and may need tips and or instructions about paddling strokes, safety procedures, and entering/exiting kayaks. Comfortable on short trips of 1 to 3 miles on protected waters, when wind does not exceed 5 mph.

**Novice:** Paddlers acquainted with basic paddle strokes and can manage kayak handling independently in winds not exceeding 10 mph on protected waters. Comfortable on trips up to 6 miles.

**Intermediate:** Paddlers with experience in basic strokes and some experience on different venues, including some open water. Comfortable on trip distances of 6 to 10 miles, winds not exceeding 15 mph.

**Advanced:** Seasoned paddlers who possess skills and experience to paddle all venues and conditions. Experienced in self-rescues. Should be comfortable paddling more than 10 miles in a day.

**NOTE:** Great care has been taken to ensure this guides accuracy, but weather, tides, and water conditions can change rapidly and create hazardous conditions. These maps are for visual reference only, please consult NOAA Charts for navigation. Paddlers should have all proper safety equipment and check conditions before departure. All paddlers should always wear PFDs while on the water, and leave a float plan. There are inherent dangers in any paddle sport. There are special hazards along the Florida coast due to shifting tides, changing wind and weather, shallow waters, and treacherous bottoms with soft mud, rocks, and oyster bars. It is up to each paddler to be aware of these dangers, to accept and be prepared for the risks involved, and to be certain they have the skills to safely paddle in these conditions.