

S25SJR Day Paddles - St Johns River

St Johns River - Leg 6 Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Interesting paddle past the remains of 13 concrete piers that were home for over 600 U.S. Navy ships mothballed after WW 2. In addition on the South side of Highway 16 was the home of Naval Air Station Lee Field during WW 2. Military Museum of North Florida now sits on 1 Bunker Av. at the corner of State road 16. You also will pass by Spring Park in Green Cove Springs where the spring flows thru the municipal pool into the St. Johns. Restrooms and water are available there along with a playground and a large pier.

Skill Level: Novice/Intermediate, due to open water paddling.

Distance/Time: 4.3 Miles/Approximately 2 Hours

Launch Site: Old Shands Bridge Ramp

Take-out Site: Governors Creek Ramp

Special Considerations: This paddle requires shuttling. Increased boat traffic especially on the weekend. Conditions can get rough if windy due to the width of the river. Tidal effect.

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.