

## S3 Day Paddles - East Bay

### Little Sandy Creek Paddle Information Sheet

**Description:** This is a fairly short and protected paddle down Sandy Creek to Little Sandy Creek. Both creeks are tidally influenced, however the current is minimal, and usually not a challenge. After leaving the ramp, there are no houses on the entire paddle. The creeks are lined mostly with black needlerush and scattered pines and magnolias, with some sawgrass in the upper part and smooth cordgrass in the lower section, along with some spatterdock. You may see osprey, anhingas, great blue herons and possibly an eagle or two along the creek, and on Little Sandy Creek you may see a few gators along the way. The water is fairly clear, with a slight tannic tint. There are only a couple small places to get out and stretch your legs, as long as you are not picky. After you pass what's left of an old logging bridge, you'll see the high tension power lines, and just a little past that is the turnaround. You may be able to go a little farther, but expect to find increasing deadfall and blockages.

**Skill Level:** Novice/Intermediate

**Distance/Approximate Time:** 6.2 Miles/3 Hours

**Launch Site:** Maude Holmes Sandy Creek Ramp

**Special Considerations:** As in all of Florida's small creeks, there is a possibility of possible deadfall and blockages, especially after storms with high winds.

#### 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.