

## S3 Day Paddles - West Bay

### Burnt Mill Creek Paddle Information Sheet

**Description:** : This is a long, mostly protected paddle up the creek from the launch site. The shoreline consists mostly of Pines lined with black needlerush and a smattering Magnolias, Cedars, Maples, palmetto, and scrub Oak. You'll also find more Sawgrass the farther up the creek you go. This is wild old Florida at its best. There is no development once you leave the bay north of the bridge, and little, if any, boat traffic. Fauna may include Eagles, Ospreys, Wood Ducks and Herons. If lucky, you may see otters and an occasional gator. The creek is tannic, but fairly clear, and its flow is negligible, unless paddling after heavy rains. Water levels are not a consideration, as this is a deep creek. A good rest area is on the southeast side of the powerline crossing. The creek generally has a hard sandy bottom.

**Skill Level:** Advanced, due to distance

**Distance/Approximate Time:** 12.4 miles/5 Hours

**Launch Site:** Burnt Mill Creek Ramp

**Special Considerations:** There is a sandy area along the north side of the ramp to launch or land a paddlecraft. Although there are occasional sandbars on low tide, the creek can be paddled at any water level without worrying about snags or deadfall..

#### 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.