

S23 Day Paddles - ICW

Lower Bulow Creek Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Going downstream, the water begins to turn brackish as you approach the Intracoastal Waterway. Much of the trail flows through grassy coastal marsh typical of the Atlantic Coast. Native Americans inhabited the area along Bulow Creek for many years prior to European settlement, and middens are exposed in the middle section of the paddling trail, near the Boardman Bridge. The Bulow Creek Paddling Trail passes by an old Florida community called Mound Grove, and a number of old homes are easily visible from the water. While the marsh in the northern section is entirely intact, the marsh below the Boardman Bridge is traversed by a number of manmade canals and what appears to be an old railroad grade or tram road.

Skill Level: Novice Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 5.4 Miles/3 Hours

Launch Site: Bulow Plantation Ruins State Park Ramp

Takeout Site: Moody Lane Ramp on High Bridge Road

Special Considerations: If you leave a vehicle at Bulow Plantation Ruins Historic State Park, be sure to return to your car before the gates are locked at 5 p.m. It can be difficult navigating the channels in the salt marsh between the Walter Boardman Bridge and the takeout at High Bridge Road. Be sure to take a GPS, map and compass. This Paddle requires shuttling vehicles. Park fees.

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.