

## S23 Day Paddles - St Johns River

## Deep Creek Paddle Information Sheet

**Description:** This is a long paddle for the more advanced paddler. Most of the paddle is along the St Johns River, and Lake Harney, with a side trip up the narrow and winding Deep Creek. Most of the creek is lined by cypress. Deep Creek actually runs all the way north to Lake Ashby, however it is usually blocked by deadfall in the upper reaches.

**Skill Level:** Advanced

**Distance/Approximate Time:** 18 Miles/8 Hours

**Launch Site:** Jolly Gator Fish Camp Paddle Launch

**Takeout Site:** Lemon Bluff Ramp

**Special Considerations:** This paddle requires shuttling vehicles. Lake Harney is a big lake and can get quite rough on windy days. Be cautious of powerboat traffic paddling on the St Johns river. Stay close to shore and out of the channel where possible. Deep Creek may have snags and deadfall, especially after storms. Launch fee at Jolly Gator.

### 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.