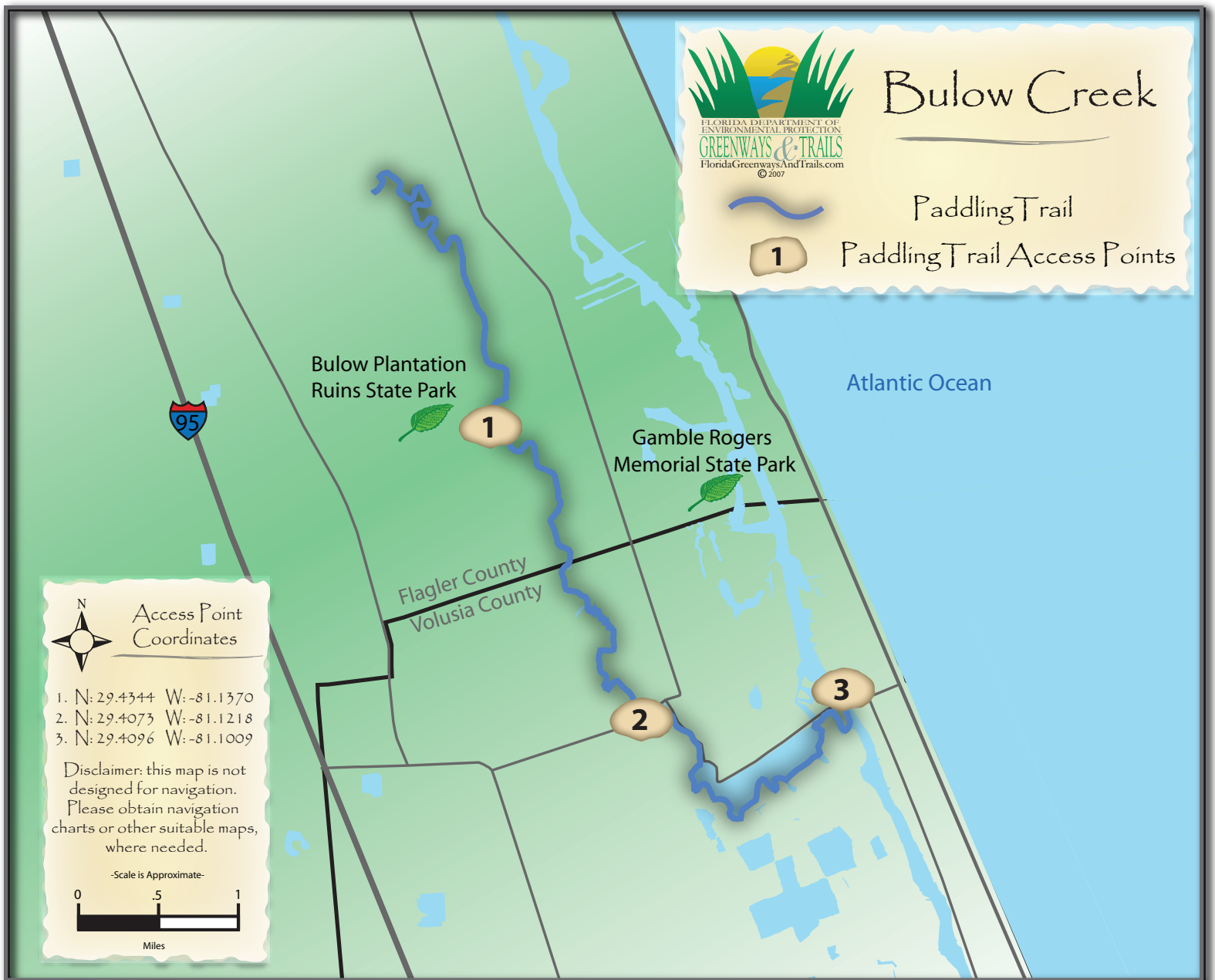


Bulow Creek Paddling Trail



Bulow Creek Trip Planning

County: Flagler, Volusia

Nearest towns: Flagler Beach, Palm Coast

Trip length: 11-13 miles

Difficulty: Easy with Navigational Challenges

Skill level: Beginner to Intermediate

**The provided mileage data is approximate (rounded to the nearest 0.5 mi) and shouldn't be relied upon for navigation.

Bulow Creek Paddling Trail

(Access Point 1) Put-in: Bulow Plantation Ruins Historic State Park

Nearest towns to put-in: Flagler Beach

Miles from put-in: 9

Directions to put-in at Bulow Plantation Ruins Historic State Park: From I-95, Exit at Old Dixie Highway and head east. Turn north (left) onto Old Kings Rd. Bulow Ruins State park is about 2.5 miles, on the right.

(Access Point 2) Directions to put-in at Walter Boardman Lane Bridge: From I-95, exit at Old Dixie Highway and head east. Turn left onto Walter Boardman Lane. Look for a small bridge over Bulow Creek.

(Access Point 3) Take-out: Smith Creek Landing at North Peninsula State Park

Directions to take-out: From I-95, Exit at Old Dixie Highway and head east. Turn left onto Walter Boardman Lane. Continue for about 2 miles and turn right onto High Bridge Road. Cross over Halifax River, and park is on the left.

Driving distance from put-in to take-out: 6-7 miles

Topo maps (USGS quads): Flagler Beach W (4410), Ormond Beach (4309), Flagler Beach E (4409)

Gazetteer page: 74-75

Outfitters within 20 miles of trail:

Tropical Kayaks at Palm Coast Marina
300 Club House Dr.
Palm Coast, FL 32137
(386) 445-0506
<http://www.tropicalkayaks.com>.

East Coast Outdoors
385 S Yonge St (US 1),
Ormond Beach, FL 32174
(386) 672-5003.

Bulow Plantation Ruins Historic State Park. (386) 517-2084

Shuttle service offered: Call outfitters

USGS link (water level info): None

Tide information: Check tides at this website: <http://tidesonline.nos.noaa.gov>

Break / Lunch areas: Bulow Plantation Ruins State Park has picnic tables and a shelter with restrooms. There is a picnic table approx 1 mile downstream from Boardman Bridge at a small park.

Camping options: No camping options along the creek.

Other lodging: Flagler Beach, Palm Coast, and Ormond Beach.

Food/Beverage restrictions: No alcohol in the state park

Bulow Creek Paddling Trail

What to expect on the river:

Tidal influence: Yes

Pull-overs: Some deadfall may be encountered at the upper end of the trail as it narrows and meanders into the swamp

Low branches: None

Narrow water: None

Shallow water: Oyster bars may be encountered on the lower section during low tide.

Strong currents: Possible with tidal currents

Rocks: None

Houses: A few residences are scattered north of Bulow Ruins and several historic old homes are found riverside in the Mound Grove area.

Shoals: None

Tight turns: None

Open water: None

Springs: None

Potable water sources: Bulow Plantation Ruins State Park.

Wildlife: An abundant variety of wildlife and birds visit Bulow Creek including swallow-tailed kites and osprey. You may see frogs, various butterfly and dragonfly species, alligators, and manatees.

Natural communities: Maritime hammock, floodplain swamp, salt marsh.

Portages: None

Swimming: At your own risk.

Motorboats: Light motorboat use of Bulow Creek, the Halifax River has larger boats that utilize the drawbridge at High Bridge Road

Expect at parking: Bulow Plantation Ruins Historic State Park

- **Parking fee:** Yes, self-pay station.
- **Bathrooms:** Yes
- **Hours of operation:** Gates close at 5 pm
- **Camping:** One primitive site. Reservations required. Contact (386) 517-2084.
- **Camping fees:** None
- **Crowds:** Some crowding on weekends and holidays
- **Boat Ramp:** Yes. Paved
- **Potable water source:** Yes.
- **Canoe/kayak launch:** None

Bulow Creek Paddling Trail

Expect at parking: Walter Boardman Lane Bridge

- There are no amenities here. Launching is from the dirt bank south of the bridge.

Expect at parking: Smith Creek Landing at North Peninsula State Park

- **Parking fee:** None
- **Bathrooms:** Yes
- **Hours of operation:** Not gated. Park open sunrise to sunset.
- **Camping:** None
- **Camping fees:** NA
- **Crowds:** None
- **Boat Ramp:** None
- **Potable water source:** Yes
- **Canoe/kayak launch:** Yes. Unimproved, natural surface launch that is accessible at any tide level.

Cultural and historical features along the trail:

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 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 man-made canals and what appears to be an old railroad grade or tram road.

In 1836, the Second Seminole War swept away the prosperous Bulow Plantation where the Bulow family grew sugar cane, cotton, rice, and indigo. Ruins of the former plantation—a sugar mill, a unique spring house, several wells, and the crumbling foundations of the plantation house and slave cabins—show how volatile the Florida frontier was in the early 19th century. Today, a scenic walking trail leads visitors to the sugar mill ruins, listed on the National Register of Historic Sites

For more on the history of Bulow Plantation access this website:

<http://www.floridastateparks.org/bulowplantation/History.cfm>

Notes:

If you leave a vehicle at Bulow Creek 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 good map and compass.

Allow time to visit the ruins at the Bulow Creek State Historical Park. Take the short 10-minute nature trail to the interesting sugar mill ruins and interpretive display.