

# Spruce Creek Paddling Trail

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**Access #3 Cracker Creek Outfitters**  
N: 29.089940 W: -81.042275

**Access #1: Spruce Creek Park**  
N: 29.0931 W: -80.9739

**Access #2: Strickland Bay Bridge**  
N: 29.0825 W: -80.9638

**FLORIDA**

0 1.75 3.5 7 Miles

-  Spruce Creek Paddling Trail
-  Canoe/Kayak Launch
-  Restrooms
-  Camping
-  Potable Water
-  Florida Conservation Lands
-  Wetlands





# Spruce Creek Paddling Trail Guide

## The Waterway

Paddlers begin their journey from a wide brackish bay, but as they head north, the creek narrows and marshy expanses give way to shoreline trees. Historically, a large indigenous Native American habitation was nestled around the Spruce Creek basin. Between Interstate 95 and the railroad bridge, visitors will find the [Doris Leeper Spruce Creek Preserve](#) on both sides of the river. Further to the west, the water turns brackish saltwater with more marshlands and mudflats. Finally past Interstate 95 to the west and further upstream, the water is fresh with more tropical plants and animal species.

## The Paddling Experience

This 16-mile round trip is suitable for beginners, however if you launch from Spruce Creek Park make sure you use it **only at high tide**. Because of deep mud, the ramp is unusable at low tide so pay attention for an out and back trip. Strickland Bay Bridge or Cracker Creek are better options and can be accessed on any tide. The trip is the same distance, regardless of access choice. Note that the Strickland Bay Bridge and Spruce Creek Park are launch sites on the east side of the river where Cracker Creek is located further upstream and west.

## Access Points

**Paddling on Spruce Creek is a round trip, choose from the following access points to start and end your trip:**

### #1 [Spruce Creek Park](#),

Spruce Park's 536-foot boardwalk begins more than three miles of nature trails leading to the 15-foot observation tower and continues to Rose Bay. **It's not recommended to launch at Spruce Creek Park unless your short trip starts and ends with a high tide.** Nestled under tall pines just northwest of the US 1 Bridge, Spruce Creek Park has restrooms, picnic tables, nature trails, and a camping area. There is a canoe launch next to the park's fishing pier, however boats must be dragged quite a distance and it is unusable at low tide (too much mud). **It is much easier to launch from the sandy beach off of US 1 or from Cracker Creek.** *From I-95 Take Dunlawton Avenue (SR421) east, then turn south on Nova Road (Hwy 5A), then south on US 1 for about one mile to Spruce Creek Park*

### #2 Strickland Bay Bridge (US1), both sides of the road.

There is a small park property off Divito Drive on southwest side of the US 1 Bridge. A split-rail fence has a couple of openings allowing a short walk to launch. On the opposite side (southeast) of the US 1 bridge is a sandy beach launch area, go under the bridge and paddle west through Strickland Bay about a mile towards a railroad bridge, the start of Spruce Creek. *From the intersection of SR 44 and US 1 in New Smyrna travel north on US 1 4.8 miles. Look for a small, sandy beach on the east side of US 1, at the south end of the bridge.*

### #4 Cracker Creek Outfitters,

[Cracker Creek](#) is an outfitter offering boat tours and a 20-acre sanctuary located on the west side of Spruce Creek and adjacent to [Gamble Place](#). The outfitter provides tours to this interesting historic home or you can



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take your own self-guided tour of the grounds Wednesday-Sunday. Launch from Cracker Creek for a fee and travel west to see more tropical canopies and habitats. Travel east to see the freshwater eco-systems transition into brackish marshes and mudflats then into the open saltwater bays. Directions: *From I-95, take exit 256 for FL-421 toward Port Orange then continue until Taylor Road to turn left. After about 1.5 miles, turn left at a sign next to the entrance to Cracker Creek.*

## Outfitters and Shuttle Service

[Cracker Creek](#), 386-304-0778  
[Salty Dawg Outfitters](#), 386-763-3311



Photos: FWC