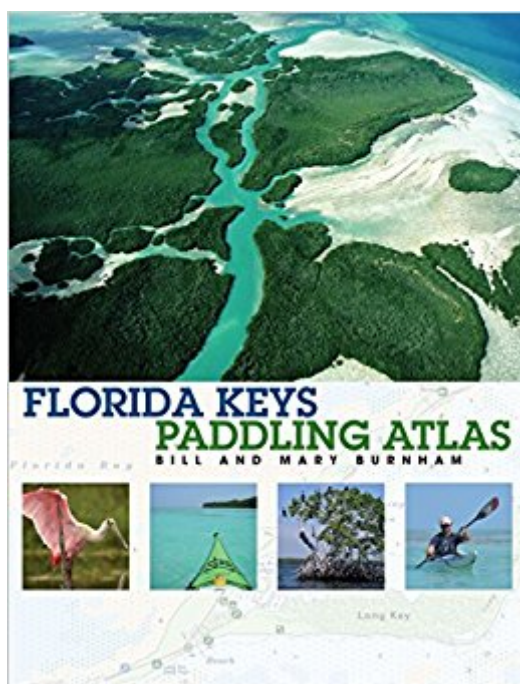


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# Florida Keys Paddling Atlas (Paddling Series)



## Synopsis

A detailed color atlas of the Florida Keys from Key Largo to Key West designed for kayakers and other water enthusiasts interested in shallow water exploration.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

From mangrove-lined creeks in Key Largo to secluded coastlines in the remote Dry Tortugas, the Florida Keys and surrounding shallow tropical waters possess natural and man-made wonders unmatched in the continental United States. In this water paradise, paddlers have an almost unlimited number of creeks, mangroves, and shorelines to explore, from sheltered paddling on the oceanside of the Upper Keys to open-water crossings in the Middle Keys to explorations of outlying islands in the Lower Keys. The Florida Keys Paddling Atlas provides custom-made charts, from Key Largo to Key West and the Dry Tortugas, specifically designed for paddlers, fly fishers, snorkelers, and other small-craft water enthusiasts interested in shallow water exploration. Each chart is fully annotated with key put-ins, paddle-friendly marinas, and hidden waterways. Accompanying field notes provide route-finding information, including distances and suggested routes, paddling highlights, cautions, natural history, flora and fauna, and points of interest, to help guide water travelers on their own excursions and adventures. An extensive appendix contains information on kayak launches, outfitters, guides, rentals, camping, and paddle-friendly lodging and dining.

Bill and Mary Burnham have blended their love of travel, the outdoors, writing, and photography into a dual freelance career. They are the authors of Hiking Virginia, The Virginia Handbook, and The Florida Beach Guide.

I read this book cover to cover, packed up the Kayaks and drove 1000 miles to the Florida Keys expecting to have all the knowledge of places to stop and go kayaking. Again and again we stopped and tried to find the places that were noted in maps and descriptions, and many of the places we stopped were completely grown over and inaccessible, new guard rails were installed, or roads completely changed the access points described. This book is out of date now and needs to be completely rewritten and is nearly useless in its current state.

The title conveys perfectly what this slim, lightweight guide is: a collection of practical navigation charts for the recreational paddler. It more than pays for itself compared to the cost of purchasing separate navigation charts to cover its scope, which extends from Key Largo to Key West and beyond. It has just enough text to add some local tips, but most of the useful information is displayed on the charts themselves. It does not, however, go into any depth as a field guide, for which Bill Keogh's book is superior. Of course, being published in 2007, it is already outdated in some place names and access advice. Also, I found the use of go-to points, scattered GPS landmarks whose coordinates appear in an appendix, unnecessary and distracting. Maybe it's a dinosaur, but I prefer to navigate with visual cues rather than GPS, and there is already more than enough detail in the charts to allow this. What I value more as a visitor is having detailed information on free public put-in sites. It would be nice to have this detailed more clearly on each map. Maybe it's also a dinosaur who's colour-blind, but I couldn't distinguish the colours of the two types of launch site symbols. Lastly, it would be clearer to have a little overlap between the maps or at least refer to adjacent maps by page number rather than having arrows pointing to landmarks which are off the page. None of these are serious faults, just suggestions for a welcome future edition.

This book is the greatest. This time I purchased this as a gift for a friend. This guide has all the information you need to Kayak through the Florida Keys for a lifetime whether you are a novice or an expert paddler or new or familiar with the Florida Keys. I have used this guide now for three years and have not run into any errors yet. There is always a great trip to select in every part of the Keys even when the weather is not the best for paddling. There are lots of mangroves trails to

explore and other routes to explore the magnificent keys whether it is between islands keeping out of the wind or through the canals admiring the houses and wild life. And you may even run into the author (as I did) who is still guiding kayak trips throughout the Florida keys and frequents many of the campgrounds in the Keys. This is the reason this guide is so good. All of these routes are authentic routes that were obviously tested by the Author from running tours along these paddling routes.

Having recently visited and kayaked a few locations in the Florida Keys, I find that this Atlas has incredible potential for making future expeditions easier. The maps and accompanying info seem to be super detailed. I appreciate the efforts Bill and Mary put into their book. Although the fact that the research was done prior to 2007, the maps are essentially a guide at this point, but extremely helpful in understanding the unique characteristics of each location. This is helpful to someone who may merely be visiting and has no idea what to expect!! There are many useful warnings and helpful hints that also make this guide essential to any tourist (experienced kayakers included) wishing to go out onto the waters of the Florida Keys away from the crowds.

Very well written and the illustrations are awesome. I live at the tip of the Florida Keys and do a lot of kayaking.

If you are planning a trip to the Keys, and plan on kayaking, I recommend this book. Our trip is coming up soon, so we haven't used it yet, but just going over the maps and all the information before hand is a big help. There are SO many areas to explore, and it's doubtful you would know about some of the places to put in without this book. It also gives you warnings about possible conditions in the area, and what skill level is required to embark on some of the routes. This is helpful to us, because we are "casual" kayakers. We are more interested in exploring the winding tributaries than lots of open water. Great maps, and just lots of good info. It's pricey, but I think well worth it if you're going into an area like the Keys that you are not familiar with.

This is one of those heavy-paged colorful books that are a joy just to hold and smell! Fifty-two charts illustrate the stunning water world from Key Largo down to Key West and out to the Dry Tortugas. Using colors and symbols, each chart (at a scale of about two inches per mile) details water depths, habitat, markers, fishing and snorkeling spots, put-in locations, hazards, camping areas -- everything you need to know. It's the perfect guide for not only paddlers, but fishermen and boaters

too, and also the less adventuresome who want to explore the Florida Keys as they drive US 1 -- poking around hidden spots, wading in the shallows with their cameras. The book is heavily illustrated with relevant and beautiful photographs. Along with Bill Keogh's Paddling Guide, this book is a must for those who want to truly know and experience the Florida Keys. Marsh Muirhead, author of "Key West Explained - a guide for the traveler."

I initially borrowed this atlas from the public library and found it so informative that I had to order a copy to keep permanently. My husband and I just started kayaking several months ago and have found this atlas to be indispensable. Among the many features that we find useful, the two that we appreciate the most are probably the locations of all the free and paid launch sites and the mile marker numbers (essential when looking for any location in the Keys). The book is incredibly detailed and accurate. Thanks to the authors for the time and effort they put into compiling this excellent volume.

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