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Walkway # 14

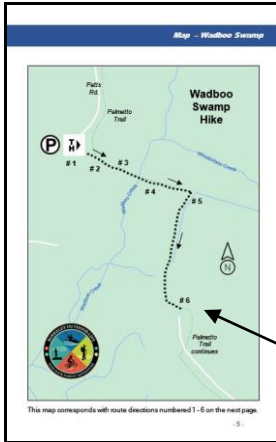
Crooked Bay

www.BerkeleyOutdoorLife.com



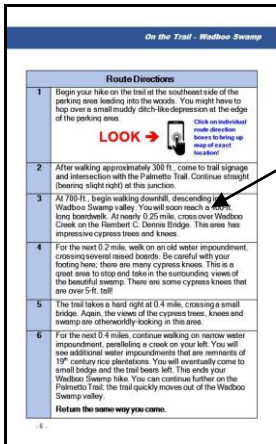


Convenient Functionality Built into This Guide



On Map Pages:

Using your phone (or touch-screen enabled device), tap any of the route numbers to bring up a map of the exact location!



On Route Direction Pages:

Tap anywhere in the individual *On the Trail* route boxes to bring up a map of the exact location!



Crooked Bay



Swamp/bottomland habitat below the dike at Crooked Bay.

Summary

Located entirely within the Sandy Beach Waterfowl Management Area, the Crooked Bay route takes the hiker through a variety of habitats including pine forests, bottomland floodplains, water impoundments and big lake coves, all while hiking on wide, easy forest service roads. To say this area has wildlife is an understatement! In one trip, you're likely to see egrets, osprey, herons, ibis, eagles, deer, alligators, snakes and fox squirrels. Don't miss this adventure for those who like to wander in the woods.

Difficulty

Moderate (only due to distance).

Distance

5.3 mile route or 7.4 mile route, round-trip, loop style hikes.

Time

2.5 - 3.5 hours.

Take a longer hike in a protected wildlife management area

- Trail Surface** Wide dirt/sand forest service roads.
- Crowds** Very light.
- Fees/Permits** None. Parts of the waterfowl management areas are closed from November until February. There are signs indicating this.
- Precautions:** Biting insects can be formidable in the warmer months. Bring insect repellent.
- There could be alligators sunning on some of the roads. Never approach an alligator. Usually, they will move away quickly when they see humans.

Parking Sandy Beach Road, Pineville, SC 29468.



GPS: 33.400852, -80.066027
33°24'03.1"N, 80°03'57.7"W

**Weather on
the Trail**

Click [HERE](#)




Map - Crooked Bay - 5.3 Mile Hike

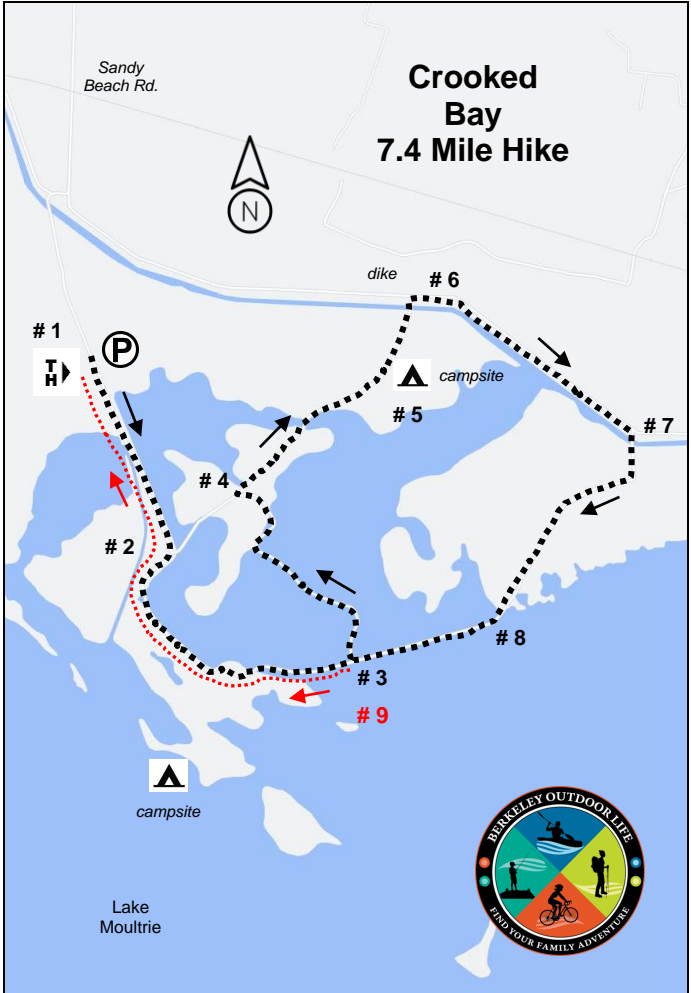


This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 7 on the next page.

Route Directions - 5.3 Mile Hike

<p>1</p>	<p>Begin your hike by walking around the metal gate (to the left of the large “Sandy Beach Waterfowl Management Area” sign). Walk south down the dirt/sand service road.</p> <p>After 1,000 ft., there is water on both sides of the road (the road is now a water impoundment). This is an active waterfowl sanctuary area. You’re likely to see an abundance of wildlife in this area.</p> <p>LOOK →</p>  <p>Click on individual route direction boxes to bring up map of exact location!</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>Road curves to the right at 0.7 mile, and within 0.2 mile, there’s a water impoundment on your left. Look for herons, egrets and the occasional alligator sunning on the bank.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>At 1.7 miles, turn left, heading into woods. Over the next 0.9 mile, you’ll traverse through mixed pine forest, tall grasses and remnants of crop fields. This is a great area to watch for deer.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Turn right at 2.6 miles. For next 0.25 mile, there crop fields on both sides, then you’ll reenter the woods. The woods for the next 0.6 miles are lush at times, with beautiful ferns and blooming irises on both sides of the road.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Come to designated campground on right at 3.3 miles.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>At 3.5 miles, turn left on elevated dike. Continue walking this wide, dirt road for 1.2 miles.</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>Turn left on Sandy Beach Rd. (this is the road you came in on to the trailhead) at 4.7 miles. The road bears left again.</p> <p>Continue walking down Sandy Beach Rd. for 0.6 mile to end your hike at the trailhead.</p>

Map - Crooked Bay - 7.4 Mile Hike



This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 9 on the next page.

Route Directions - 7.4 Mile Hike	
1	<p>Begin your hike by walking around the metal gate (to the left of the large “Sandy Beach Waterfowl Management Area” sign). Walk south down the dirt/sand service road.</p> <p>After 1,000 ft., there is water on both sides of the road (the road is now a water impoundment). This is an active waterfowl sanctuary area. You’re likely to see an abundance of wildlife in this area.</p>
2	<p>Road curves to the right at 0.7 mile, and within 0.2 mile, there’s a water impoundment on your left. Look for herons, egrets and the occasional alligator sunning on the bank.</p>
3	<p>At 1.7 miles, turn left, heading into woods. Over the next 0.9 mile, you’ll traverse through mixed pine forest, tall grasses and remnants of crop fields. This is a great area to watch for deer.</p>
4	<p>Turn right at 2.6 miles. For next 0.25 mile, there crop fields on both sides, then you’ll reenter the woods. The woods for the next 0.6 miles are lush at times, with beautiful ferns and blooming irises on both sides of the road.</p>
5	<p>Come to designated campground on right at 3.3 miles.</p>
6	<p>At 3.5 miles, turn right on elevated dike. Continue walking this wide, dirt road for 0.9 miles.</p>
7	<p>Turn right off the dike, descending into the woods again at 4.4 miles.</p>
8	<p>At 5.1 miles, emerge from woods to water (and marsh on the left) on both sides. This area is full of wildlife! Look for alligators, large herons, egrets, osprey and anhingas.</p>
9	<p>Arrive back where you’ve already hiked (reference # 3 above and on map) at 5.7 miles. From here, continue retracing your steps 1.7 miles back to the trailhead (see dotted red line and arrows on map).</p>



Spring irises abound along the side of the forest service roads.



A walk in the woods. Crooked Bay route aerial view.