

23 Hiking Routes | 180+ Miles of Family Adventure



Berkeley Walkways

www.BerkeleyOutdoorLife.com



Berkeley Walkways

Family Adventure Guide



Hiking Hell Hole Rd. on Walkway # 23 - Cooks Creek Valley.

Front cover photo: Walkway # 7 - Old Santee Canal Park.

Berkeley Walkways: Family Adventure Guide – 3rd Edition

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Berkeley Soil & Water
Conservation District



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Choose Your Family Adventure

Berkeley Blueways



Easy Walking / Hiking Trails

| Name | Distance | Location | Pg # |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|------|
| Daniel Island Trail | 1.4 miles | Daniel Island | 8 |
| Goose Creek Trail | 2.5 miles | Goose Creek | 13 |
| Cane Bay Community | 12+ miles | Summerville | 18 |
| Nexton Community | 10+ miles | Summerville | 22 |
| Camp Hall | 12 miles | Ridgeville | 26 |
| Cypress Gardens | 4.5 miles | Moncks Corner | 31 |
| Old Santee Canal Pk. | 3+ miles | Moncks Corner | 36 |
| Hanahan City Park | 1 mile | Hanahan | 39 |
| Mepkin Abbey | 0.5 - 1.5+ m. | Moncks Corner | 47 |
| Sandy Beach | 3.2 miles | Pineville | 63 |
| Wadboo Swamp | 1.5 miles | Moncks Corner | 91 |
| Turkey Crk / Irishtown | 4.2 miles | Huger | 101 |
| Battery Warren | 1.2 miles | Jamestown | 107 |
| Jericho Swamp | 3.6 miles | Cordesville | 112 |

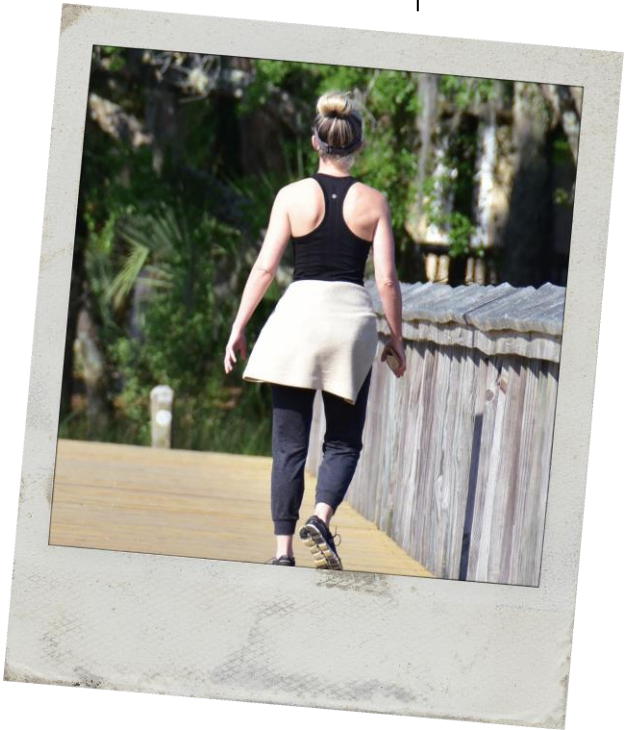
Moderate Hiking

| Name | Distance | Location | Pg # |
|--------------------|-----------|---------------|------|
| Biggin Creek Trail | 5.0 miles | Moncks Corner | 43 |

| | | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|-----|
| Santee Canal | 3.0 or 7.1 m. | Pineville | 58 |
| Crooked Bay | 5.3 or 7.4 m. | Pineville | 68 |
| East Moultrie Flats | 8.4 miles | Bonneau | 75 |
| Canady Wetlands | 5.9 miles | Moncks Corner | 86 |
| Little Hellhole Swamp | 2.2 or 6.6 m. | Cordesville | 96 |
| Cooks Creek Valley | 7.2 miles | Huger | 117 |
| Strenuous Hiking | | | |
| Lake Moultrie Psg | 27 miles | Lake Moultrie | 53 |
| Swamp Fox Passage | 48 miles | FMNF | 80 |
| Hiking Trails with FREE Camping | | | |
| Lake Moultrie Psg | 4 camps | Lake Moultrie | 53 |
| Sandy Beach | 3.2 miles | Pineville | 63 |
| Crooked Bay | 5.3 or 7.4 m. | Pineville | 68 |
| East Moultrie Flats | 8.4 miles | Bonneau | 75 |
| Swamp Fox Passage | 5 camps | FMNF | 80 |
| Little Hellhole Swamp | 2.2 or 6.6 m. | Cordesville | 96 |
| Jericho Swamp | 3.6 miles | Cordesville | 112 |
| Cooks Creek Valley | 7.2 miles | Goose Creek | 117 |

MULTI-USE PATHS

Berkeley Walkways



Walking the Daniel Island Trail.



Daniel Island Trail

1



You will cross a trio of long boardwalk bridges over beautiful tidal marsh.

Summary

The beautiful Daniel Island Trail is a family favorite! This multi-use path traces the east side of Daniel Island along the Wando River. You'll walk on several boardwalks that cross tidal marsh, wind through Low Country maritime forest habitats, see giant live oaks, pass by children's play areas and see a variety of wildlife (egrets, herons, dolphins). Don't miss this easy stroll on one of the area's most popular planned island communities.

Difficulty

Easy.

Distance

1.4 miles of trail, can be out-and-back walk, or variety of distances.

Time

Varies, 30 minutes to 1.5 hours.

Trail Surface

Variety of surfaces; boardwalks, dirt, sand, crushed gravel, concrete.

Enjoy a little island life on this family favorite multi-use path!

Crowds Moderate to heavy. This is one of the most popular family trails in the Berkeley Outdoor Life program.

Fees/Permits None.

Precautions When crossing through the maritime forest sections, biting insects can be formidable in the warmer months. Bring insect repellent. There are warnings that alligators could be in the area.

Parking Governor's Park, 165 Fairbanks Oak Alley, Daniel Island, SC 29492. This is also parking for Governor's Park off Seven Farms Drive.

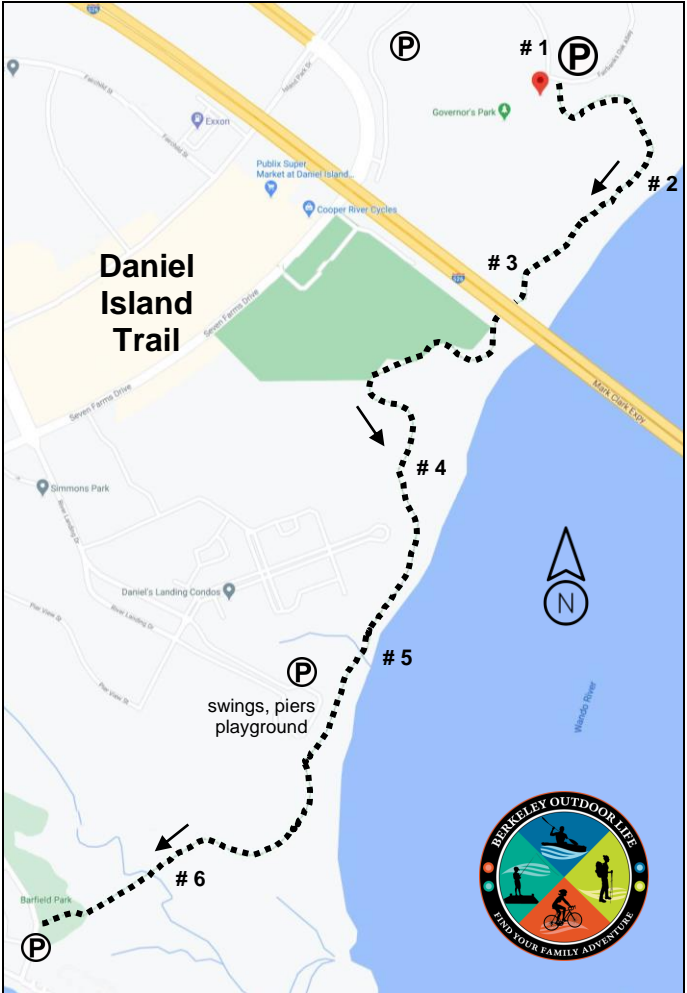


GPS: 32.865118, -79.898890
32°51'54.4"N, 79°53'56.0"W

**Daniel Island
Weather**

Click [HERE](#)





This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 6 on the next page.

| Route Directions | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1 | From the parking area(s) at Governor's Park, the Daniel Island trail begins south of the baseball fields near a playground area (you might also see signs for "River Walk Loop"; this is the same trail). Walk the dirt and crushed gravel trail, heading towards the Wando River. |
| 2 | After 900-ft., begin paralleling the Wando River. You are now in maritime forest habitat. |
| 3 | At 0.25 mile, cross over 200-ft. long boardwalk bridge over marsh and at 0.3 mile, walk under I-526. |
| 4 | Cross over 300+ ft. long boardwalk bridge over marsh at 0.7 mile. |
| 5 | At 0.9 mile, cross over 150-ft. long boardwalk bridge over marsh. After bridge, arrive at Daniel Landing Dr. area with swing sets, piers, and playground. |
| 6 | Cross over impressive 500-ft. long boardwalk bridge over marsh at 1.25 miles. This bridge terminates at Barfield Park. This ends the Daniel Island Trail. Return the same way you came. |



There's something for every member of the family on the Daniel Island Trail.



Walk (or run) among giant live oak trees and maritime forest habitats.



Goose Creek Trail

2



Goose Creek Trail signage on the path paralleling HWY-52.

Summary

The Goose Creek Trail is a smooth concrete and asphalt path that circumnavigates the tranquil pond behind the town's municipal center and extends 1.5 miles paralleling HWY-52. It's wide enough for several people to walk side-by-side, and is popular with joggers, families with strollers and cyclists. The pond area sees a variety of wading birds and even the occasional large bird of prey (red shouldered hawk, bald eagle).

Difficulty

Easy.

Distance

2.2 miles of paths, can be out-and-back walk, or variety of distances.

Time

Varies, 30 minutes to 2 hours.

Trail Surface

Smooth, wide concrete and asphalt path.

Take a stroll on an easy, safe multi-use path in Goose Creek

Crowds Moderate, you're likely to see others on the path.

Fees/Permits None.

Precautions You'll cross several roads when walking the HWY-52 section. Look both ways and yield to cars. Most of this trail is in the full exposed sun. Wear a hat and sunscreen.

Parking Marguerite H. Brown Municipal Center, 519 N. Goose Creek Blvd (HWY-52), Goose Creek, SC 29445. 843-797-6220.



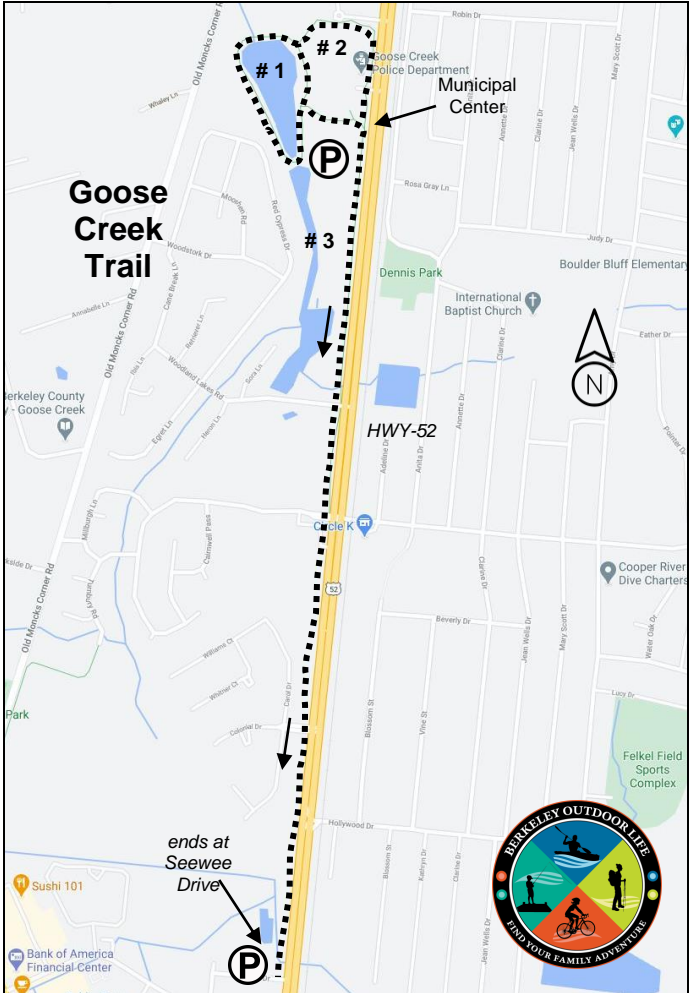
GPS: 33.027608, -80.035822
33°01'39.4"N, 80°02'09.0"W

**Goose Creek
Weather**

Click [HERE](#)



Map - Goose Creek Trail



This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 3 on the next page.

Route Directions

| | |
|----------|---|
| | From the municipal center parking area, you have several options for a short or longer walk. For the purposes of this guide, the numbered route directions will list these walking choices. |
| 1 | Just a couple hundred feet west of the parking area is the large pond behind the municipal center. This is the most popular area for walkers. You will almost always see others circumnavigating the pond. The distance around the pond is half-a-mile. |
| 2 | By taking the path on the northeast side of the pond path, and then circling the municipal complex and heading back to where you parked, this adds another 0.3 mile. |
| 3 | You can walk the part of the trail that parallels HWY-52. This continues for 1.4 miles to Seewee Drive. You will cross three roads. There is also limited parking at some of the businesses at Seewee Drive. |



Aerial view of Goose Creek Trail and pond behind the municipal center.



The Goose Creek Trail is appropriate for every member of the family.



Cane Bay Community

3



Getting some exercise on the wide, safe trails at Cane Bay.

Summary

With more miles of multi-use paths than any other community in Berkeley County, take an hour-long stroll, or a half-day hike on 12+ miles of trails that wind through wooded areas, around ponds, through tunnels, and parallel quiet, beautiful neighborhoods. Cane Bay is a great place for the entire family to get some exercise on safe, wide paths. Tip: park at The Market at Cane Bay for shopping or to grab a bite to eat after your adventure.

Difficulty

Easy.

Distance

12+ miles of family multi-use paths (more than 25 miles of paths planned!).

Time

Spend as little, or as much time as you'd like.

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Trail Surface | Smooth, wide concrete and asphalt path. |
| Crowds | Moderate. This is a growing area with many families spending time outdoors. |
| Fees/Permits | None. |
| Precautions | Many of the residents use golf carts on the multi-use paths. Some of the path paralleling Cane Bay Blvd. has little reprieve from the sun. A wide brim hat and sunscreen are recommended. |
| Parking | <u>MANY OPTIONS</u> - At the entrance to many of the neighborhoods along Cane Bay Blvd., there are pull-off areas for parking. A great place to park and start is at The Market at Cane Bay - 1730 State Road, Summerville, SC 29486. On the weekends or during the summer, park at Cane Bay Elementary School or Cane Bay Middle School. |

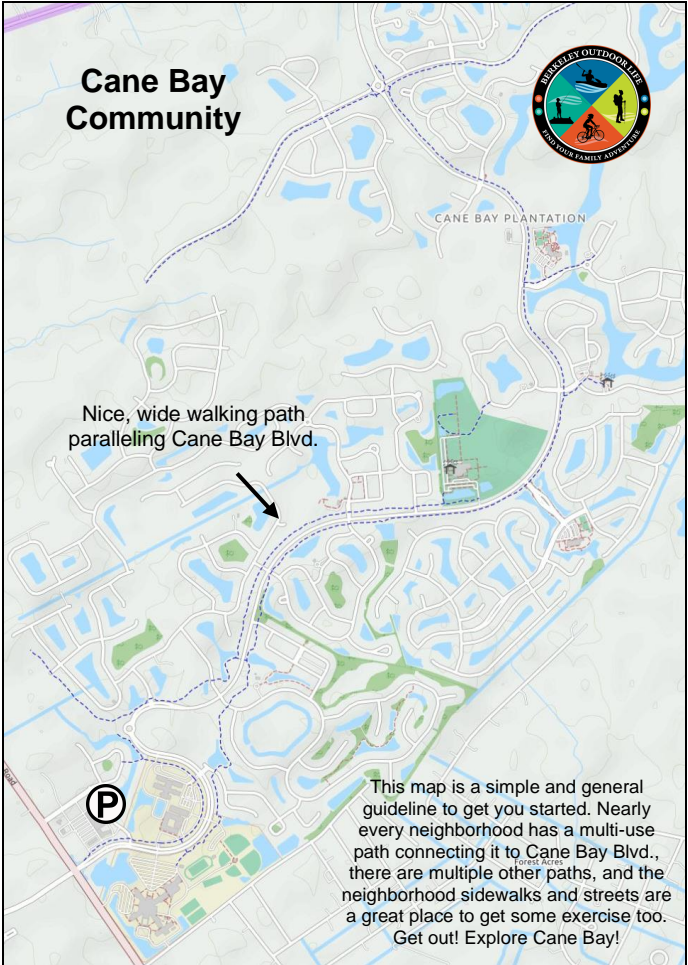


GPS: 33.105580, -80.126320
33°06'20.1"N, 80°07'34.8"W

**Cane Bay
Weather**

Click [HERE](#)







There are tunnels under Cane Bay Blvd. for safe family fun.



The multi-use paths wind around many ponds and scenic areas.



Nexton Community

4



One of the greenspace gravel walking paths at Nexton.

Summary

Take a short stroll or a long walk in Berkeley County's newest large, planned community. Nexton has more than 10 miles of asphalt, concrete, gravel and natural surface multi-use paths that are designed with families in mind. The options for walking are endless! You can traverse landscaped greenspaces, enjoy miles of walking paths paralleling the Nexton Parkway, or just take a stroll through a quiet neighborhood. Lace up your walking shoes, pack a picnic and head to Nexton for some quality family exercise!

Difficulty

Easy.

Distance

More than 10 miles of family multi-use paths (with many more miles of paths planned!).

Planned community with more than 10 miles of paths

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Time | Spend as little, or as much time as you'd like. |
| Trail Surface | Variety of surfaces; concrete, asphalt, gravel, natural surface. |
| Crowds | Moderate. This is a growing community with lots of folks spending time outdoors. |
| Fees/Permits | None. |
| Precautions | On many of the paths, there is little reprieve from the sun. A wide brim hat and sunscreen are recommended. |
| Parking | <u>MANY OPTIONS</u> - You can park along most of the community streets. A great place to park and start is Brighton Park Village, Scholar Way, Summerville, SC 29493. There is ample parking around the "Great Lawn" and pond area. |



GPS: 33.058354, -80.148873
33°03'30.1"N, 80°08'55.9"W

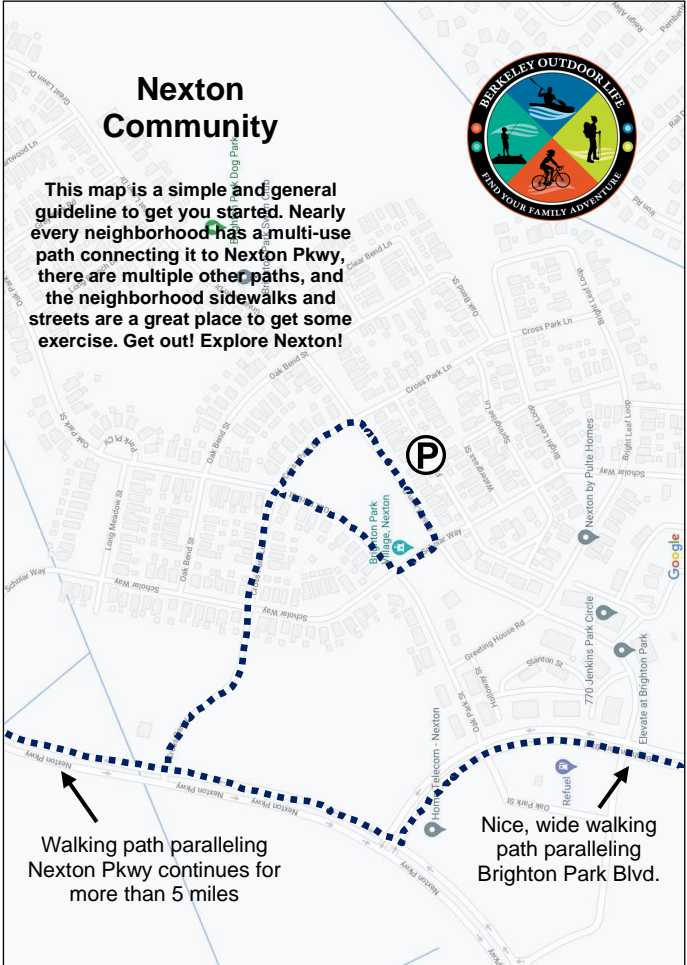
**Nexton
Weather**

Click [HERE](#)



Nexton Community

This map is a simple and general guideline to get you started. Nearly every neighborhood has a multi-use path connecting it to Nexton Pkwy, there are multiple other paths, and the neighborhood sidewalks and streets are a great place to get some exercise. Get out! Explore Nexton!

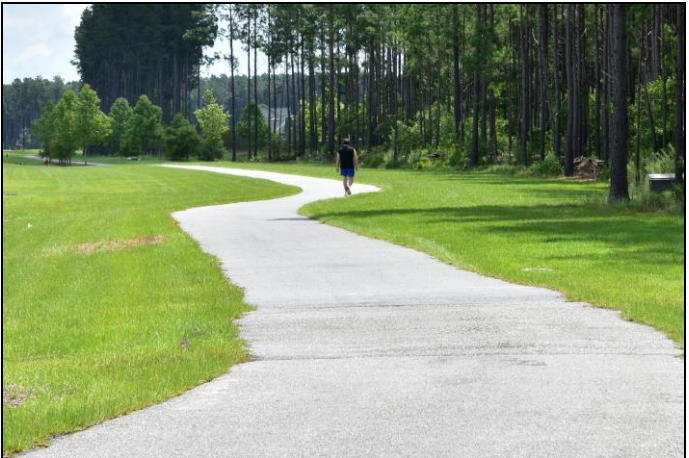


Walking path paralleling Nexton Pkwy continues for more than 5 miles

Nice, wide walking path paralleling Brighton Park Blvd.



Path going through landscaped greenspace at Brighton Park Village.



Wide, safe multi-use path paralleling Nexton Parkway.



Camp Hall

5



Camp Hall has multi-use recreation for the entire family!

Summary

Camp Hall is a next generation commerce park that not only is designed for modern industry, but also includes nearly 2,000 acres of preserved habitats. The family adventurer will find miles of mixed surface trails and routes that can be used for walking/hiking, wildlife viewing and forest exploring. This is one of the best places in the Low Country that you can pick an adventure and keep going back to experience something new and exciting with each visit. Grab your boots, pack a lunch and camera, and head to Camp Hall.

Difficulty

Easy.

Distance

12 miles of trail routes (as of Summer 2021).

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Time | Plan at least 2 - 3 hours each time you visit this exciting place. |
| Trail Surface | Mixed surface; forest-service road type roads, gravel, dirt, mulch, forest double-track. |
| Crowds | Light. You'll see others on the weekends. |
| Fees/Permits | None. |
| Precautions | Biting insects can be formidable in warmer months. Bring insect repellent. You're likely to see a good bit of wildlife; try not to disturb it! |
| Parking | 114 Three Point Drive, Ridgeville, SC 29472. There's great trailhead signage with a map on the north side of the parking lot. GPS: 33.132486, -80.267084 33°07'57.0"N, 80°16'01.5"W |

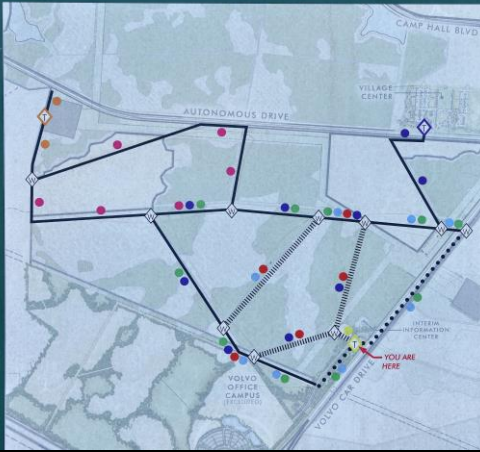
**Camp Hall
Weather**

Click [HERE](#)



CAMP HALL TRAIL SYSTEM

A GUIDE TO YOUR NEW FAVORITE SPOT



LEGEND:

- FILL MATERIAL - DIRT TRAIL (Multi-use path)
- MULCH PATH (Multi-use path)
- ASPHALT PAVEMENT (Multi-use path)
- TRAILHEAD SIGNAGE
- WAYFINDING SIGNAGE

NOTE: In addition to wayfinding and trailhead signs, mile markers are to be placed at 0.5 mile intervals along trails.

TRAIL ROUTES:

- Box Office - 0.14 miles | 0.23 km
- Cypress - 1.55 miles | 2.49 km
- Ironwood - 3.17 miles | 5.10 km
- Magnolia - 2.28 miles | 3.67 km
- Sweetbay - 0.29 miles | 0.47 km
- Sycamore - 2.27 miles | 3.65 km
- Tupelo - 1.92 miles | 3.09 km
- Village - 0.38 miles | 0.61 km

KEY MAP



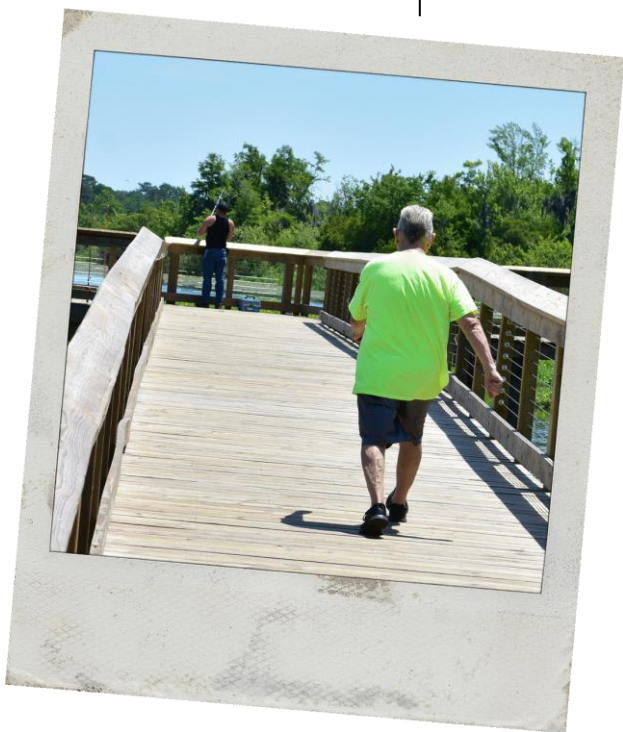


Hiker crossing a bridge on the Sycamore/Cypress route.



It's easy to find your way at Camp Hall; bright, colorful trail signage.

Berkeley Walkways



On the boardwalks of Hanahan City Park.



Cypress Gardens

6



Cypress Gardens is always a favorite family adventure.

Summary

Visit one of the most popular family attractions in the South Carolina Low Country. In addition to walking the beautiful trails, there's lots to see and do. You're guaranteed to see wildlife - variety of birds and reptiles. Check out the Swamparium, take a stroll through the Butterfly House, and see exotic birds in the Aviary. There's even a gift shop and large playground for the kids. 16 movies and television series have been filmed at Cypress Gardens. Don't miss this world class family adventure!

Difficulty

Easy.

Distance

4.5 miles of family walking paths.

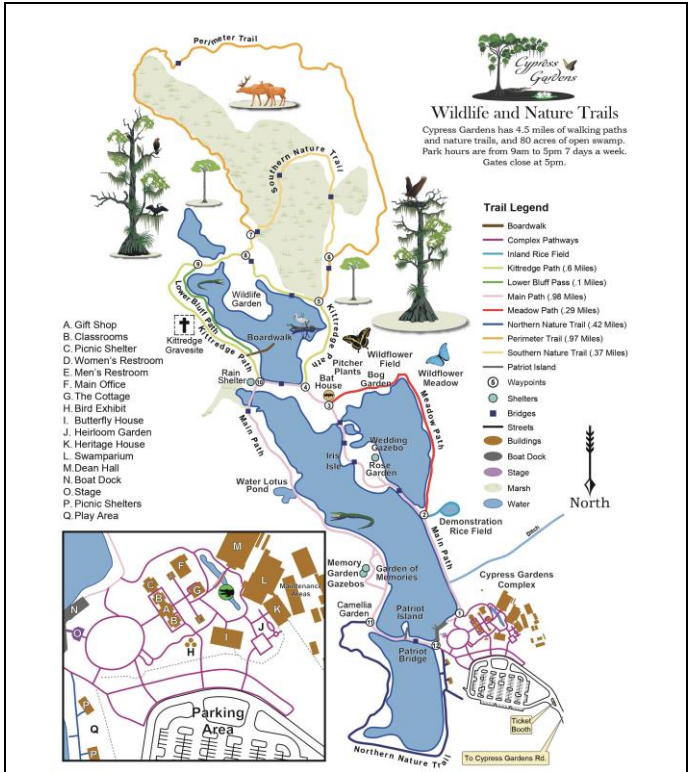
Visit one of the most popular family attractions in the area

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Time | Spend a minimum of 2 hours to enjoy everything Cypress Gardens has to offer. |
| Trail Surface | Wide asphalt walking paths. |
| Crowds | Light to moderate during the week. Heavy crowds on the weekend. |
| Hours | Open 7 days a week. 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. Last admission 4:00 pm. |
| Admission | Age 18-64, \$10. Age 16-17, \$5. Age 65+, 911 and military, \$6.50 (as of Summer 2021). |
| Precautions | Biting insects can be formidable in warmer months. Bring insect repellent. You're likely to see a good bit of wildlife; try not to disturb it! |
| Address | 3030 Cypress Gardens Road, Moncks Corner, SC 29461. |
| Contact | cypressgardens.berkeleycountysc.gov 843-553-0515 |

Cypress Gardens Click [HERE](#)
Weather



Map - Cypress Gardens





Spring flowers explode with color at Cypress Gardens.



A few of the "locals" at Cypress Gardens.



Old Santee Canal Park

7



This park is popular with birders and photographers.

Summary

The Old Santee Canal Park in downtown Moncks Corner offers hours of easy adventure for families. The park is the site of America's first canal, which began operating in 1800. There are over 3 miles of walking paths, with lots of raised boardwalks and bridges. You'll traverse the quiet Biggin Creek and are guaranteed to see wildlife; common sightings are egrets, herons, turtles, deer and alligator! There's an interpretative center, landing with excellent views of the Tailrace Canal, picnic facilities, and the Berkeley County Museum and Heritage Center.

Difficulty

Easy.

Distance

3+ miles of walking paths.

Have a walking adventure at America's first canal

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Time | Plan 2 - 4 hours to enjoy this gem of a park. |
| Trail Surface | Mixed surface; raised wood boardwalk, dirt, concrete. |
| Crowds | Varies from light to heavy. Weekends are the busiest with family adventurers. |
| Hours | Open daily 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. |
| Admission | \$5 per person. \$3 for Senior/AAA/Military. FREE for children 6 & younger (as of Summer 2021). |
| Precautions | Biting insects can be formidable in warmer months. Bring insect repellent. You're likely to see a good bit of wildlife; try not to disturb it! |
| Parking | 900 Stony Landing Road, Moncks Corner, SC 29461. |
| Address | oldsanteecanalpark.org . 843-899-5200. |
| Weather at the Park | Click HERE |

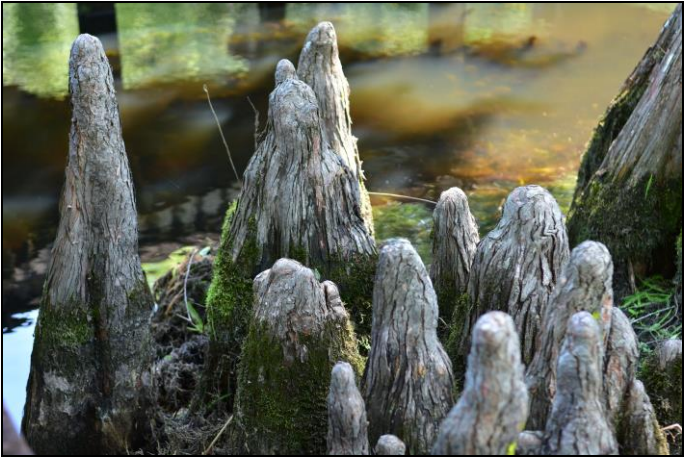


Map - Old Santee Canal Park





You'll walk on lots of raised boardwalk at Old Santee Canal Park.



Strange and interesting cypress knees are a common sight in the park.



Hanahan City Park

8



Cypress Gardens is always a favorite family adventure.

Summary

Located in the City of Hanahan on Goose Creek Reservoir, the City Park is a wonderful place for family walks, wildlife viewing, fishing, boating, kayaking, kids playtime, organized sports and music. With nearly a mile of walking paths, including a new boardwalk bridge and dock, winding asphalt through wooded areas, and sidewalks circumnavigating ball fields, there is truly something for everyone. Put on your walking shoes, pack a picnic, grab your fishing pole, and head to Hanahan City Park!

Difficulty

Easy.

Distance

1 mile of paths.

Family walks, wildlife viewing, fishing, boating and kayaking

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Time | Plan at least an hour at this large park. |
| Trail Surface | Boardwalk, asphalt and concrete sidewalk. |
| Crowds | There are usually a lot of folks enjoying this park. |
| Hours | Daylight hours. |
| Admission | FREE! |
| Precautions | You're likely to see a good bit of wildlife; try not to disturb it! |
| Address | Bettis Boat Landing Rd., Hanahan, SC 29410. |
| Contact | cityofhanahan.com. 843-266-0723. |

Hanahan Weather

Click [HERE](#)



Map – Hanahan City Park





Beautiful and relaxing spot to have a picnic.



Aerial view of the new boardwalk and dock.



Biggin Creek Trail

9



Mountain bike berms provide interesting entertainment even for hikers!

Summary

The Biggin Creek Trail was primarily developed for mountain bikers, but is open and encouraged for use by hikers and trail runners. This trail offers a lot for the family adventurer. It's one of the few trails in the area with lots of elevation change. You'll hike countless small, and sometimes steep hills with roots, stumps and other small obstacles. The hike stops by the namesake, beautiful Biggin Creek. You may see egrets, herons, turtles and alligators. The best part: this fun adventure is located in the heart of the town of Moncks Corner.

Difficulty

Moderate.

Distance

5.0 miles, round-trip, loop trail.

Hike a world class mountain bike park trail with tough sections

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Time | 2 - 2.5 hours. |
| Trail Surface | Mostly narrow “single” track, dirt, lots of roots. |
| Crowds | Varies from light to heavy. Designed for and popular with mountain bikers. Heavy use on the weekends. |
| Hours | Daylight hours. |
| Admission | None. The town will close the trail for a couple days after heavy rains to prevent damage to the trail. |
| Precautions | Biting insects can be formidable in warmer months. Bring insect repellent. This trail was built for mountain bikers, but hikers and trail runners are encouraged to use it. Be on the lookout for (sometimes fast moving) bikers. Everyone is usually courteous and will yield to hikers. Watch your footing; there are countless roots on the trail. |
| Address | An exact address is not given, however, if you Google “Cannon Welding, Moncks Corner,” it is right across the street. Cannon Welding’s address is 591 Rembert C. Dennis Blvd., Moncks Corner, SC 29461. <u>GPS</u> : 33.204245, -79.982635 |
| Contact | Town of Moncks Corner Recreation Department. 843-719-7921 |
| Moncks Corner Weather | Click HERE |



Map – Biggin Creek Trail





Humorous sign indicating the more strenuous path.

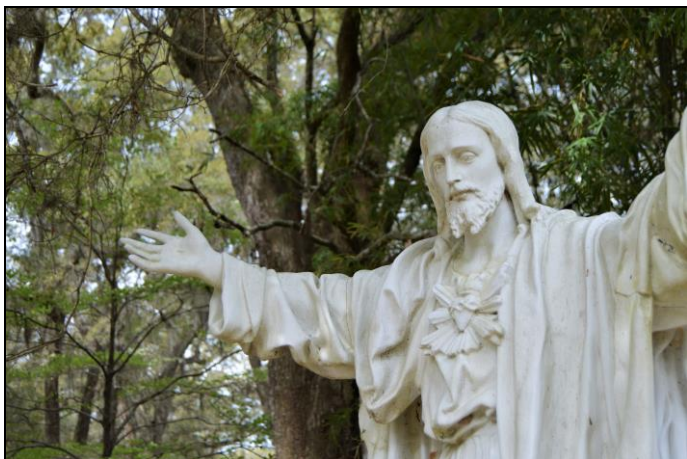


Strange signs abound at Biggin Creek; the trail is easy to follow.



Mepkin Abbey

10



You will find many sculptures around the grounds at Mepkin Abbey.

Summary

Walk the grounds of a Roman Catholic Trappist monastery. Located on the grounds of the historic Mepkin Plantation on the Cooper River, you will see landscaped vistas, beautiful gardens, ornate sculptures and the Mepkin Abbey Church. This is a fantastic trek for the entire family and a great place to have a picnic. Walk all the way to the Cooper River. You are treated to impressive live oaks and panoramic scenery.

Difficulty

Easy.

Distance

0.5 - 1.5 + miles. Treat this walk as exploration.


Time

Plan to spend 2 -3 hours.

Trail Surface

Pathways, asphalt and dirt roads, crossing over lawns/grass.

Saunter on the grounds of a beautiful Trappist monastery

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Crowds | Moderate to heavy crowds, especially on the weekends. |
| Fees/Permits | None. Parts of the abbey may be closed at times for religious purposes. |
| Precautions: | <p>Biting insects can be formidable in warmer months. Bring insect repellent. No dogs are allowed.</p> <p>Watch for alligators around some of the ponds.</p> <p><u>IMPORTANT:</u> This is a working monastery. Please dress modestly, be mindful of foul language, and show respect to clergy members and any religious services.</p> |
| Parking | <p>1098 Mepkin Abbey, Moncks Corner, SC 29641. 843-761-8509. www.mepkinabbey.com. Park in the Reception Center/Gift Shop parking lot.</p> <p>GPS: 33.115964, -79.950910 33°06'57.5"N, 79°57'03.3"W</p> |
| Weather at the Abbey | <p>Click HERE</p>  |



This map corresponds with route directions the next page.

Route Directions

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 1 | After entering the grounds of Mepkin Abbey, proceed down Mepkin Abbey Rd, following the signs for the Reception Center & Gift Shop. Park here. It is best to grab a free map from the Reception Center. |
| 2 | <p>For the purposes of this guide, we will not provide specific “trail routes.” Mepkin Abbey is best treated as an exploration walk. Using the map on the previous page, and the map you received at the Reception Center, wander the beautiful grounds. There are gardens, statues, sculptures, wood carvings, ponds, stunning views of the Cooper River and you are nearly guaranteed to see wildlife along the way.</p> <p>Bring a camera, and maybe even a picnic. This is a peaceful and special place to spend a couple hours.</p> |



Appropriate message to all who visit Mepkin Abbey.



Unique wood carving statues at Mepkin Abbey.

Berkeley Walkways



There is great trail signage on the Palmetto Trail.



Lake Moultrie Passage

11



This namesake passage follows the outline of Lake Moultrie.

Summary

This passage of the Palmetto Trail follows the scenic and popular Lake Moultrie, one of the state's largest bodies of water. Lots of variety is guaranteed to keep things interesting: bottomland/swamp habitats, water impoundments, forest-service roads, hardwood and pine forests, and wildlife including herons, egrets, ibis, bald eagles, fox squirrels and alligators. This is a fantastic passage for backpackers because it offers some of the best sunrises and sunsets in the Low Country.

Difficulty

Easy, if section hiked. Strenuous if thru-hiked.

Distance

27 miles, total passage length.

Time

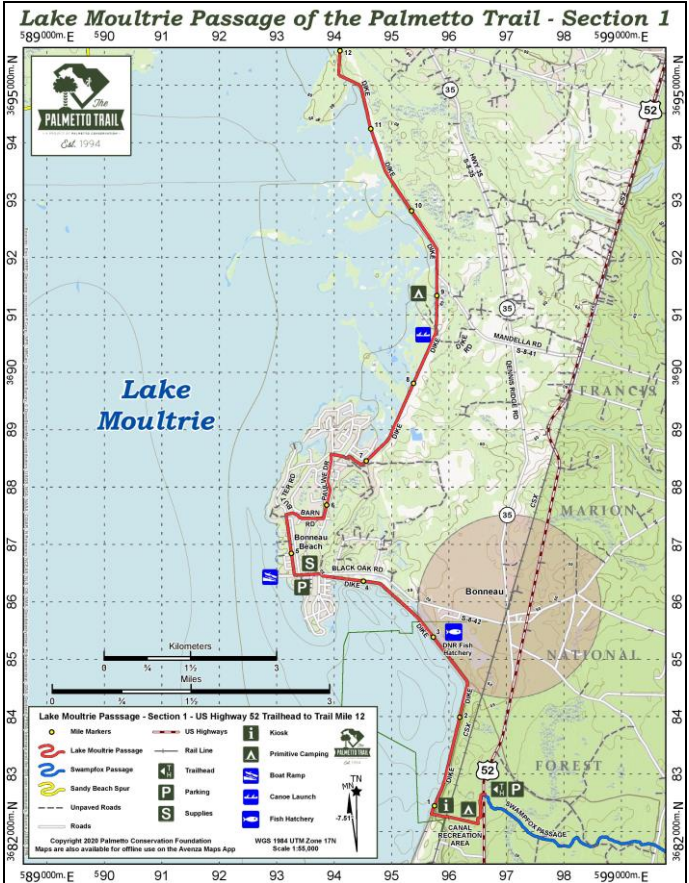
If thru-hiked, most backpackers can complete in 1 night/2 days.

Hike around one of the state's largest bodies of water

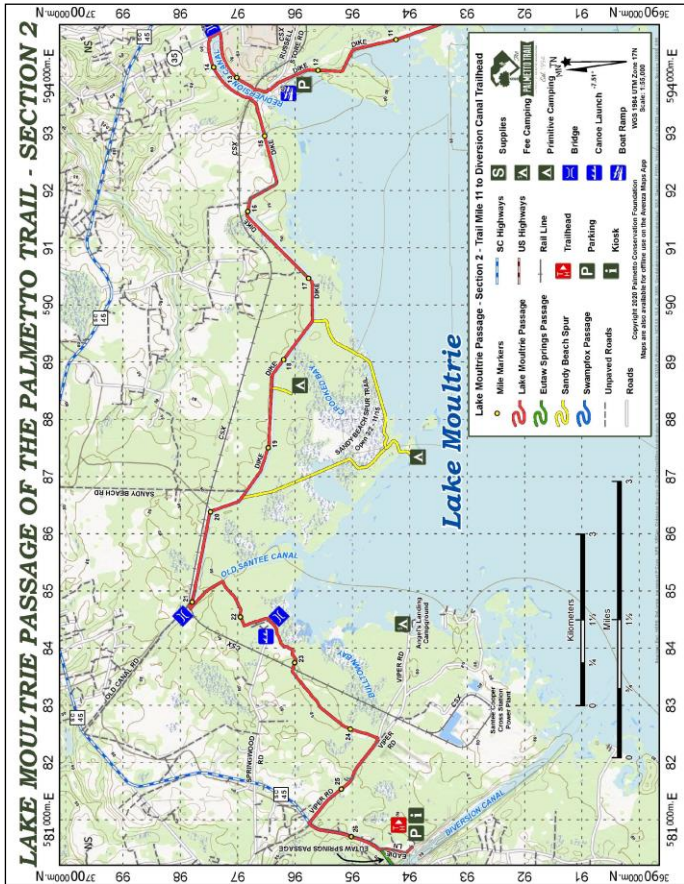
| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Trail Surface | Sand, pine covered, raised boardwalks, planks, bridges and bottomland/wet sections. |
| Crowds | Light. |
| Fees/Permits | None. |
| Precautions | Biting insects can be formidable in warmer months. Bring insect repellent. Many miles of this passage traverse the long water impoundments of Lake Moultrie. There is little reprieve from the sun. A wide brim hat and sunscreen are recommended. |
| Eadie Lane Trailhead | Eadie Lane, Cross, SC 29436 <u>GPS</u> : 33.381806, -80.134250 33°22'54.5"N, 80°08'03.3"W |
| HWY-52 Trailhead | N. US HWY-52, Bonneau, SC 29431 <u>GPS</u> : 33.278472, -79.962444 33°16'42.5"N, 79°57'44.8"W |
| Contacts | SC Dept. Natural Resources, Bonneau, SC Office 843-825-3387. Santee Cooper 843-761-4068. Palmetto Trail 843-359-8775 or 803-771-0590. |
| Weather on the Trail | Click HERE |



Map 1 – Lake Moultrie Passage



Map 2 – Lake Moultrie Passage





Great Blue Heron taking flight along Lake Moultrie.

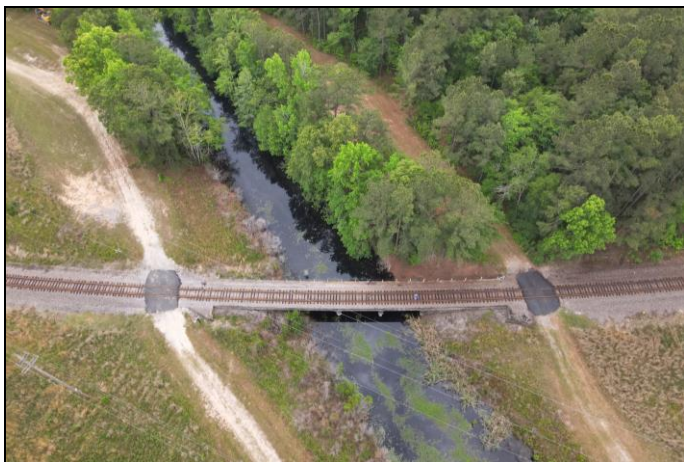


Parts of the trail consist of wide, service roads.



Santee Canal

12



Aerial view of the Santee Canal. This is your destination on the hike.

Summary

Hike to one of the earliest built canals in the United States. The Santee Canal dates to the 1790s, and it helped connect Columbia to the coast. This delightful hike takes you through a variety of habitats and trail types. You'll walk on wide forest service roads, visit beautiful bottomland floodplains, and cross many interesting, raised boardwalks and bridges. You are even likely to see great blue herons, egrets and deer if you're quiet. This trek is part of the Palmetto Trail's Lake Moultrie Passage.

Difficulty

Easy or Moderate (only due to distance).

Distance

3.0 or 7.1 miles, round-trip, out-and-back hike.

Time

1.5 - 3.5 hours.

Trail Surface

Dirt, gravel, forest service roads, raised boardwalks and bridges.

Hike to one of the earliest canals built in the United States

Trail Marker Yellow blazes on trees, and good signage on the trail.

Crowds Very light. You are almost guaranteed to be alone. You may see others on the weekend.

Fees/Permits \$4.00 parking fee only if parking at Springwood Drive (see below)

Precautions: Biting insects can be formidable in the warmer months. You may have to walk through shin-to-knee deep grass - ticks abound! Bring insect repellent.



VERY IMPORTANT: If there is a train at the crossing, walk around it on the gravel. Never attempt to pass through in between the train cars. The train can start moving at any time without warning.

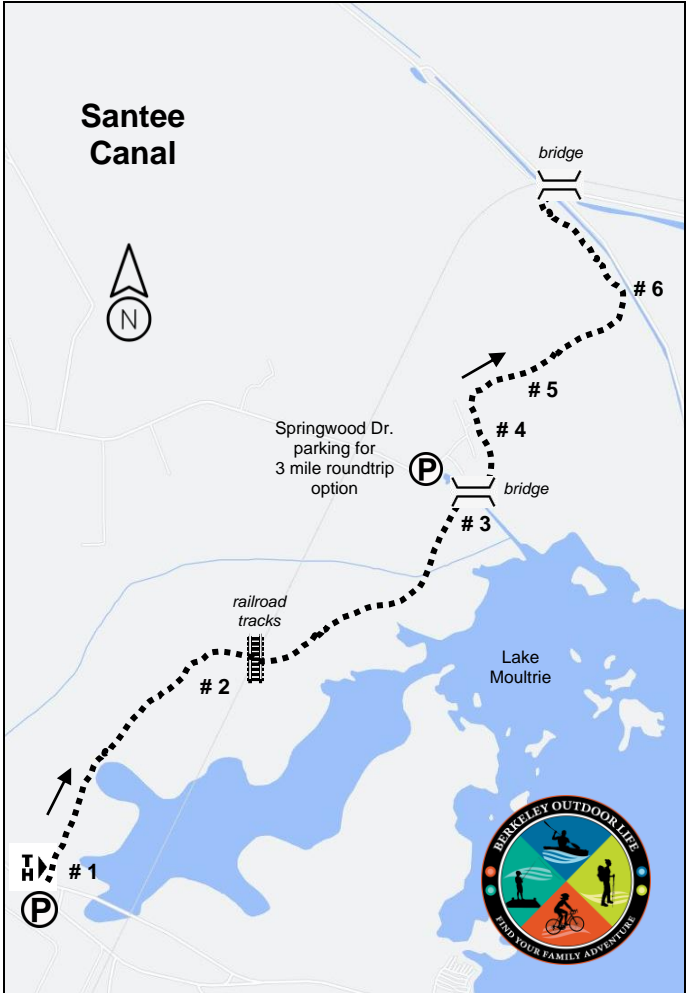
Parking 7.1 Mile Option - park off Viper Rd., Pineville, SC.
GPS: 33.387071, -80.113609
33°23'13.5"N, 80°06'49.0"W

3.0 Mile Option - park at end of Springwood Dr., Pineville, SC, at private boat launch.
\$4.00 parking fee (as of Summer 2021).
GPS: 33.403931, -80.093653
33°24'14.2"N, 80°05'37.2"W

Weather on the Trail

Click [HERE](#)





This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 6 on the next page.

| Route Directions | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1 | Park in the grass/dirt off to the side of Viper Rd. near the trailhead. The trail is marked with Palmetto Trail signage. Begin your hike by walking north on the wide dirt forest service road. |
| 2 | At 1.25 miles, arrive at railroad tracks. IMPORTANT: these tracks frequently have coal train cars for the Cross Generating Power Station. If train cars are present, walk around the track in the gravel beside the tracks. After crossing tracks, trail reenters the woods and after 150-ft. bears left. Trail narrows to tight “singletrack” and enters bottomland floodplain over the 0.75 mile. You’ll cross several raised boardwalks. |
| 3 | Arrive at large, steep bridge over N. Lake Moultrie “wayditch” at nearly 2 miles. **This is close to the start of the shorter 3 mile roundtrip option. If choosing this option, from the parking area at the Springwood Dr. boat launch, walk southwest to the edge of the grass and begin a path into the woods. After 200 ft., this path joins the trail at the large, steep bridge. |
| 4 | For the next 2,000 ft., the trail parallels the RV/campground that’s on the left. |
| 5 | At 2.5 miles, trail opens to wide, grassy forest service road that is mowed. |
| 6 | Turn hard left at nearly 3.0 miles, continuing wide, grassy forest service road. After another 0.5 mile, arrive at railroad tracks and bridge over the historic Santee Canal. Return the same way you came. |



Trail is blazed yellow. You'll cross many raised boardwalks on this hike.



Large, interesting bridge over the N. Lake Moultrie "wayditch."



Sandy Beach

13



Looking across Lake Moultrie from Sandy Beach.

Summary Have lunch on a beach overlooking north Lake Moultrie. This hike is entirely contained within the Department of Natural Resources' Sandy Beach Waterfowl Management Area (WMA). You are guaranteed to see large waterfowl (egrets, great blue herons, ibis), maybe a few birds of prey (osprey, bald eagles) and the occasional alligator. Bring your camera on this easy trek to the best hidden beach on the lake!

Difficulty Easy.

Distance 3.2 miles, roundtrip, out-and-back hike.

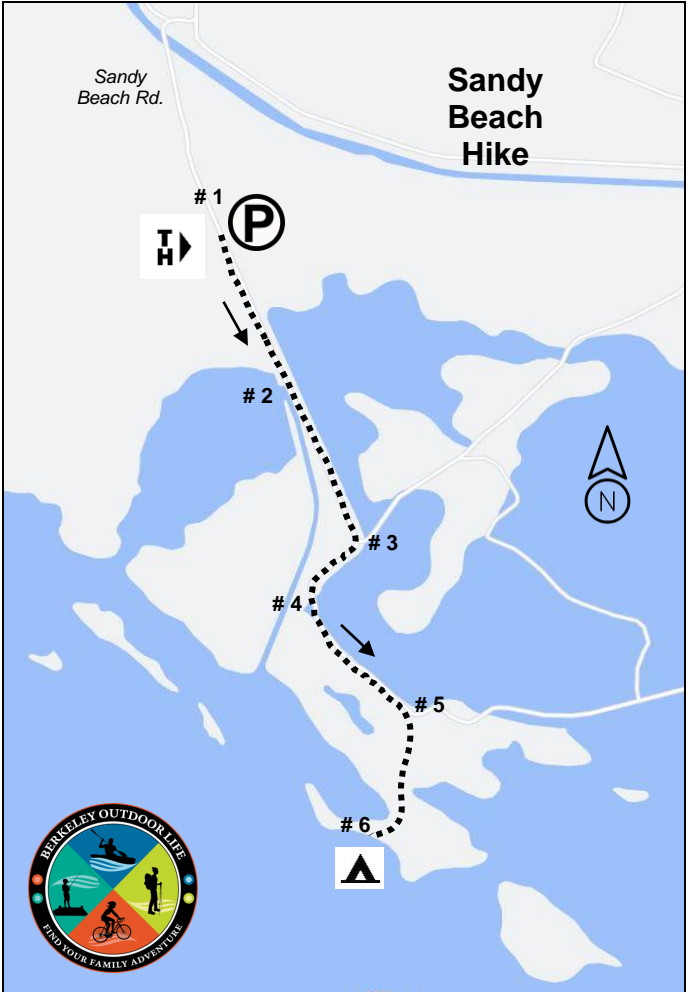
Time 3 hours.

Trail Surface Wide dirt/sand service roads and double track.

Hike through a DNR Waterfowl Management Area to a beach

- Crowds** Very light. Only possibility of seeing others is on the weekend.
- Fees/Permits** None. Parts of the waterfowl management area are closed from November until February. There are many signs indicating this.
- Precautions:** Biting insects can be formidable in 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.
- Trailhead Parking** Sandy Beach Road, Pineville, SC 29468.
- GPS: 33.400852, -80.066027
33°24'03.1"N, 80°03'57.7"W
- Camping** Waterfront primitive camping is available on a first-come, first-serve basis at the end of the hike at the namesake "Sandy Beach." This area can easily accommodate 20 campers.
- Weather on the Trail** [Click HERE](#)



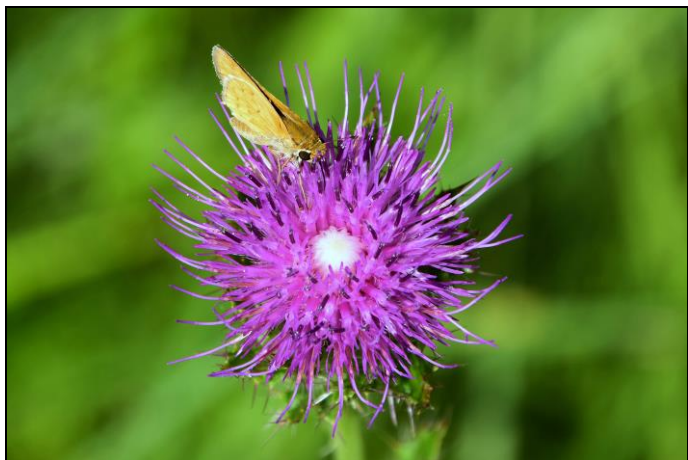


This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 6 on the next page.

| Route Directions | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1 | 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. |
| 2 | At nearly 0.2 mile into the walk, there is water on both sides of the road (the road is now a water impoundment). Both sides of the road are parts of the active waterfowl sanctuary. Take a moment to look around. You are likely to see an abundance of wildlife in this area. This continues for the next 0.3 mile. |
| 3 | Road curves to the right at 0.7 mile. |
| 4 | At nearly 0.9 mile, come to a gated maintenance facility. The road curves to the left, continuing past the facility. |
| 5 | At 1.25 miles, turn right down a double track road that heads into the woods. This road is sometimes slightly overgrown. |
| 6 | Arrive at the wide Sandy Beach at 1.6 miles. Depending on water levels, the beach here can be over 200 ft. wide. This is a primitive campground area that can easily accommodate up to 20 people. Return the same way you came. |



This route includes part of the Lake Moultrie Passage of the Palmetto Trail.

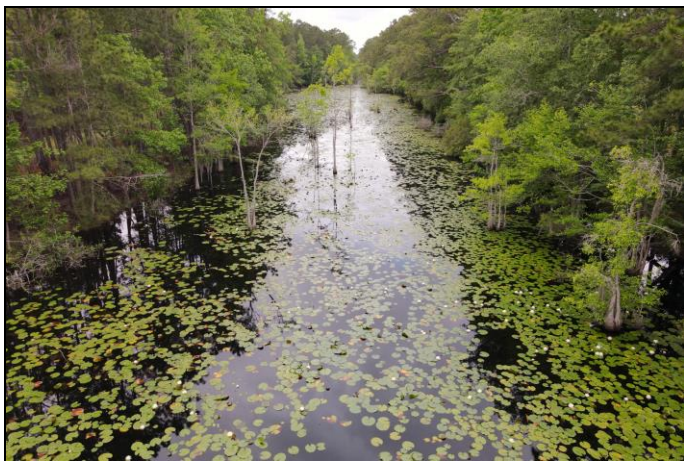


Summer flowers blooming on the hike to Sandy Beach.



Crooked Bay

14



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

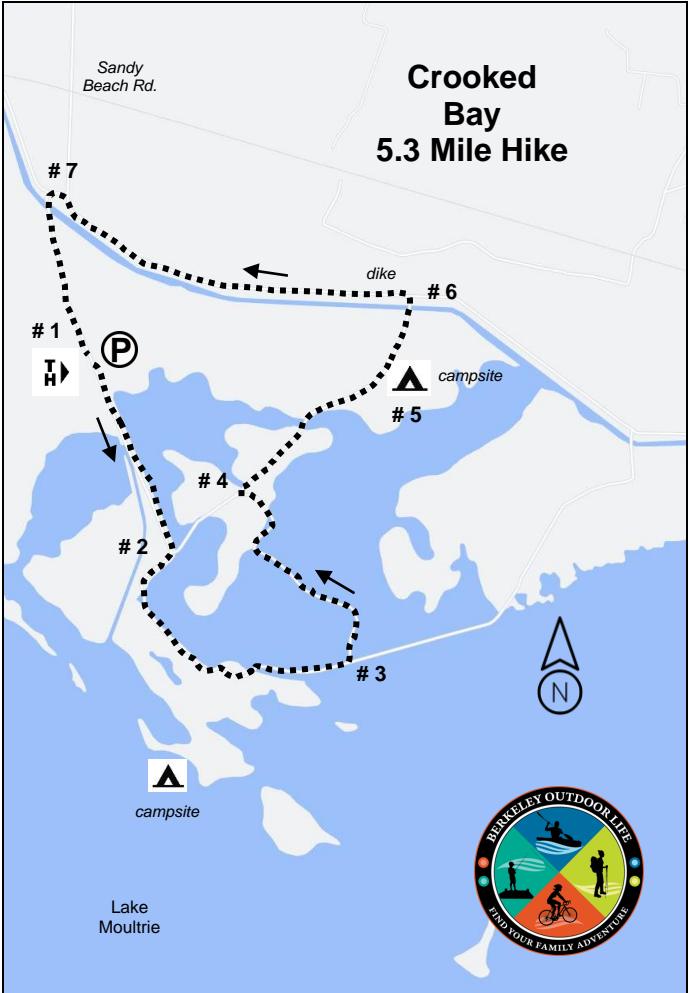
5.3 mile route or 7.4 mile route, round-trip, loop style hikes.

Time

2.5 - 3.5 hours.

Take a longer hike in a protected wildlife management area

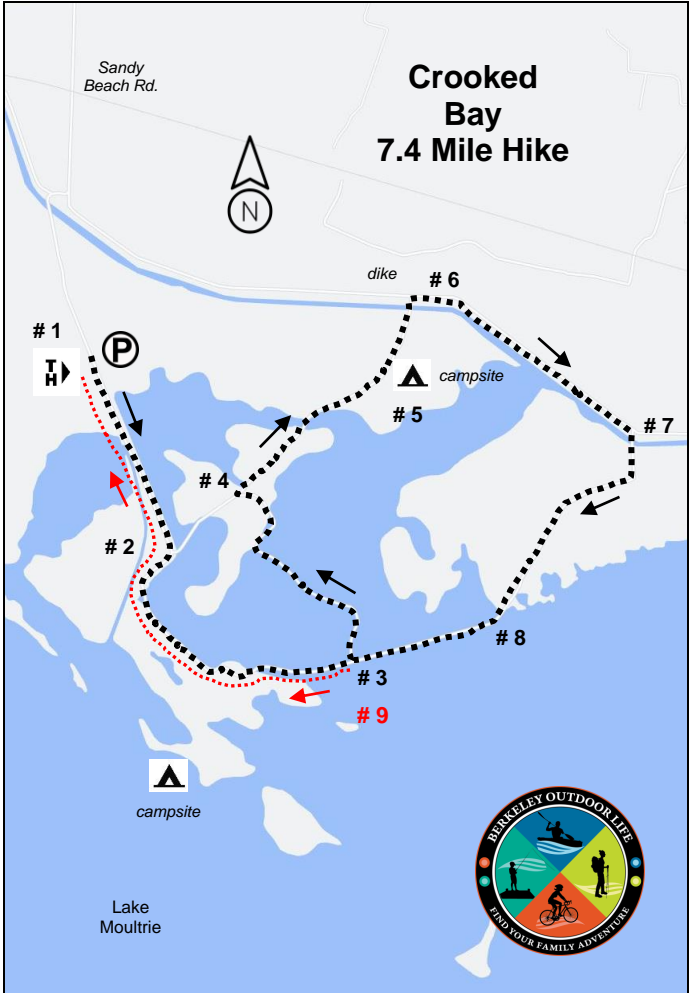
| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Trail Surface | Wide dirt/sand forest service roads. |
| Crowds | Very light. |
| Fees/Permits | None. Parts of the waterfowl management areas are closed from November until February. There are signs indicating this. |
| Precautions: | <p>Biting insects can be formidable in the warmer months. Bring insect repellent.</p> <p>There could be alligators sunning on some of the roads. Never approach an alligator. Usually, they will move away quickly when they see humans.</p> |
| Parking | <p>Sandy Beach Road, Pineville, SC 29468.</p> <p>GPS: 33.400852, -80.066027 33°24'03.1"N, 80°03'57.7"W</p> |
| Weather on the Trail | <p>Click HERE</p>  |



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

| Route Directions - 5.3 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 left on elevated dike. Continue walking this wide, dirt road for 1.2 miles.</p> |
| 7 | <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.



East Moultrie Flats

15



Beautiful views for relaxing or lunch are your reward on this hike.

Summary

Hike atop a flat and fast, well-maintained water impoundment with gorgeous views of east Lake Moultrie. This adventure has miles of blooming aquatic plants in the warmer months, a guarantee to see large birds (egrets, herons, osprey and bald eagle are common sights!), and impressive panoramic views of the lake. Bonus: at the end / turn-around point, there are rare restrooms and shaded areas with picnic tables! This is 4 miles of the Palmetto Trail's Lake Moultrie Passage.

Difficulty

Moderate, but only due to distance.

Distance

8.4 miles, round-trip, out-and-back hike.

Time

3 - 4 hours.

Take an adventure on a Lake Moultrie water impoundment

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Trail Surface | Service road; small gravel, dirt. |
| Crowds | Light. |
| Fees/Permits | None. |
| Precautions: | There is no protection from the sun on the dike. A wide brim hat and sunscreen are recommended. Biting insects can be formidable in the warmer months. Bring insect repellent. |
| Parking | Beginning of Hike: Dike Rd., Bonneau, SC 29431. GPS: 33.353176, -79.971053 33°21'11.4"N, 79°58'15.8"W End of Hike: Amos Lee Gourdine Boat Ramp, Russel Store Rd., St. Stephen, SC 29479 GPS: 33.401999, -79.992471 33°24'07.2"N, 79°59'32.9"W |

Weather on the Trail

Click [HERE](#)





This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 4 on the next page.

| Route Directions | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1 | <p>From the Dike Rd. Boat Ramp & Campground, walk back on road you drove in on approximately 600 ft. to the raised straight road running north-south. This is the dike. There are gates on both sides.</p> <p>Begin your hike by turning LEFT on the dike, going around the gate, and walking the long, flat and straight dirt/small gravel “road.”</p> <p>Almost immediately, you’ll begin paralleling the water to your left. This is sometimes called a “way ditch.” This area is beautiful with thousands of blooming water lilies in spring and summer, and many large wading birds.</p> |
| 2 | <p>At 0.9 mile, the road curves to the left (in a general northwest direction) and continues this direction for the remainder of the hike. The impressive views of the way ditch continue.</p> |
| 3 | <p>At 3.6 miles, the view to the left opens to a panoramic vista of the way ditch and lake. Stop here, take a few photos and enjoy the scenery!</p> |
| 4 | <p>Come to a gate and Russel Store Rd. at 4.1 miles. Walk around the gate, turn left on the road and continue another 300 ft. until you reach the Amos Lee Gourdine Boat Ramp parking area. This is the end of your hike. Across the large parking lot are restrooms, covered picnic tables, and there are more picnic tables on the beach/swimming area to the left.</p> <p>Return the same way you came.</p> |



95% of this hike is on the service road atop the Lake Moultrie dike.



This is part of the Palmetto Trail's Lake Moultrie Passage.



Swamp Fox Passage

16



There are many bridges and wetlands on the Swamp Fox Passage.

Summary

Hike the longest section of the cross-state Palmetto Trail. This passage begins at HWY-52 in Bonneau and ends at HWY-17 near Awendaw. Nearly 40 miles of the Swamp Fox Passage is in Berkeley County! You'll pass through a variety of ecosystems in the Francis Marion National Forest, including bottomland/swamp habitats, long-leaf pine forests, and tall grass savannas. If you're quiet in the morning, you're almost guaranteed to see white tailed deer. Barred owls can be heard throughout the forest year round.

Difficulty

Easy, if section hiked. Strenuous if thru-hiked.

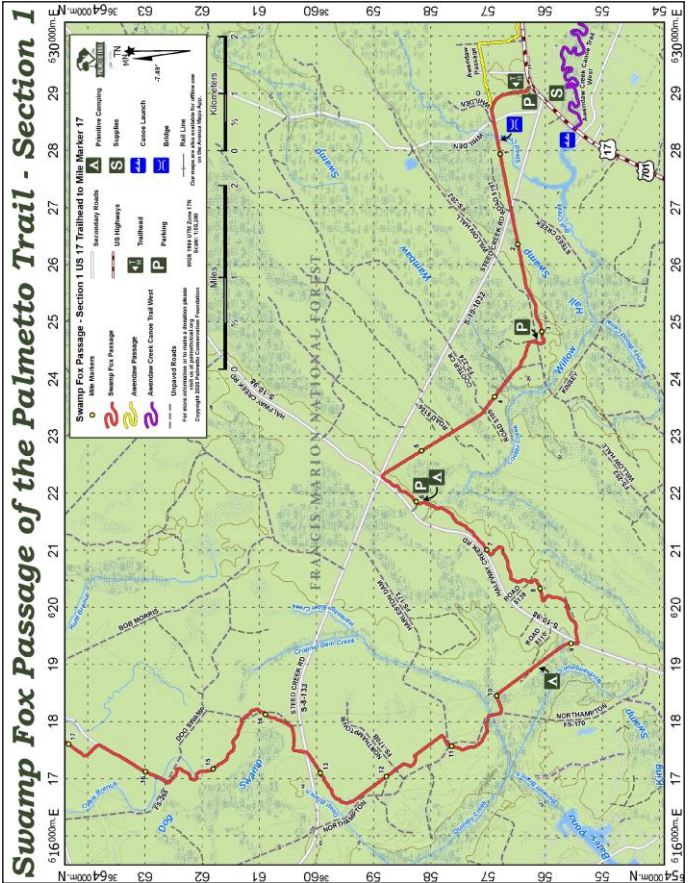
Distance

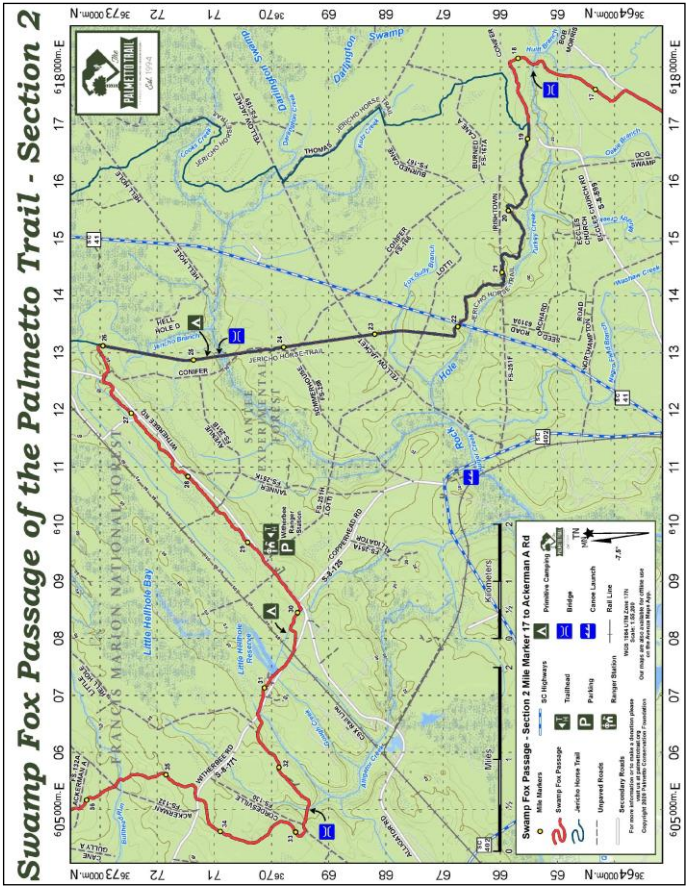
48 miles, total passage length.

Hike the longest section of the cross-state Palmetto Trail

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Time | If thru-hiked, most backpackers can complete in 3 nights / 4 days. |
| Trail Surface | Dirt, pine covered, raised boardwalks, planks, bridges and bottomland/wet sections. |
| Crowds | Light during the week; you'll see others on the weekend. |
| Fees/Permits | None. |
| Precautions | Biting insects can be formidable in warmer months. Bring insect repellent. |
| HWY-52 Trailhead | N. US HWY-52, Bonneau, SC 29431 <u>GPS</u> : 33.278472, -79.962444 33°16'42.5"N, 79°57'44.8"W |
| HWY-17 Trailhead | 7476 US-17, McClellanville, SC 29458 <u>GPS</u> : 33.037361, -79.617472 33°02'14.5"N, 79°37'02.9"W |
| Contacts | Francis Marion National Forest 843-336-2200. Palmetto Trail 843-359-8775 or 803-771-0590. |
| Weather on the Trail | Click HERE |









Camping at the Cane Gulley campsite in late Fall.



Trail signage is abundant and easy to follow in this passage.



Canady Wetlands

17



Hiker crosses long boardwalk bridge over Canady Branch.

Summary

Get ready for adventure and something different! Part of the Swamp Fox Passage of the Palmetto Trail, this route goes through several picturesque bottomland habitats and mixed hardwood forests. You'll cross over pristine bridges that zigzag through the forest with fantastic views of the dark and eerie swamp. In late Spring and early Summer, discover gorgeous wildflowers on the east side of the trail and in sunnier sections. This is a beautiful trek that guarantees variety and year-round beauty!

Difficulty

Moderate (only due to distance).

Distance

5.9 miles, round-trip, out-and-back hike.

Time

3 - 4 hours.

Zigzag through a forest with views of a dark and eerie swamp!

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Trail Surface | Dirt and pine covered, many boardwalk bridges over wet areas. |
| Crowds | Light. |
| Fees/Permits | None. |
| Precautions: | <p>Biting insects can be formidable in the warmer months. Bring insect repellent.</p> <p>Even though there are boardwalk bridges going through some of the bottomland sections, there might still be some muddy sections.</p> |

Parking Swamp Fox Passage Trailhead. N. US HWY-52, Bonneau, SC 29431.

GPS: 33.278472, -79.962444
33°16'42.5"N, 79°57'44.8"W

HWY-17 ALT Trailhead: 1780 US-17 ALT, Moncks Corner, SC 29461.

GPS: 33.263558, -79.923712
33°15'48.8"N, 79°55'25.4"W

Weather on the Trail

Click [HERE](#)



| Route Directions | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1 | <p>Begin your hike at the north terminus of the Swamp Fox Passage of the Palmetto Trail. Just beyond the large information sign at the edge of the parking area, the trail continues through the forest.</p> <p>Over the next 0.3 mile, you hike through a lush forest, crossing raised gravel walkways and a boardwalk bridge.</p> |
| 2 | <p>Come to open area with powerlines at 0.3 mile. Trail continues back into woods at boardwalk bridge.</p> |
| 3 | <p>At 0.4 mile, enter the beautiful, namesake Canady Branch bottomland. There is a unique 300-ft. long boardwalk bridge that goes over the swamp. This is a great place to stop, look around and snap a few photos. There are two benches at the end of the bridge.</p> |
| 4 | <p>Come to an old roadbed at 0.8 mile.</p> |
| 5 | <p>At 1.5 miles, cross over forest service road (Bonneau Rd.). Begin drier section of the trail with mixed hardwoods and pines.</p> |
| 6 | <p>Come to two lane asphalt road, Long Acre Dr., at 2.3 miles. There is also a small parking area here. Cross road, turn right, and trail continues back into woods 60-ft. down the road.</p> |
| 7 | <p>Arrive at HWY 17 ALT parking area and end of hiking route at 2.9 miles.</p> <p>Return the same way you came.</p> |



Start of the trail at the Swamp Fox Passage trailhead.



Many boardwalk bridges keep you dry from the swamp habitat.



Wadboo Swamp

18



You'll walk hundreds of feet of boardwalk on this hike.

Summary

One of the most beautiful bottomland habitats in Berkeley County, Wadboo Swamp looks the same as it did over two centuries ago when Francis Marion roamed these parts. This easy hike is appropriate for any member of the family. You will see remnants of 19th century rice plantations and water impoundments, and some of the most interesting cypress trees and "knees" found anywhere in the Southeast. This impressive hike is part of the Swamp Fox passage of the Palmetto Trail.

Difficulty

Easy and recommended for all skill levels!

Distance

1.5 miles, roundtrip, out-and-back hike.

Time

Allow at least an hour to enjoy everything this hike has to offer.

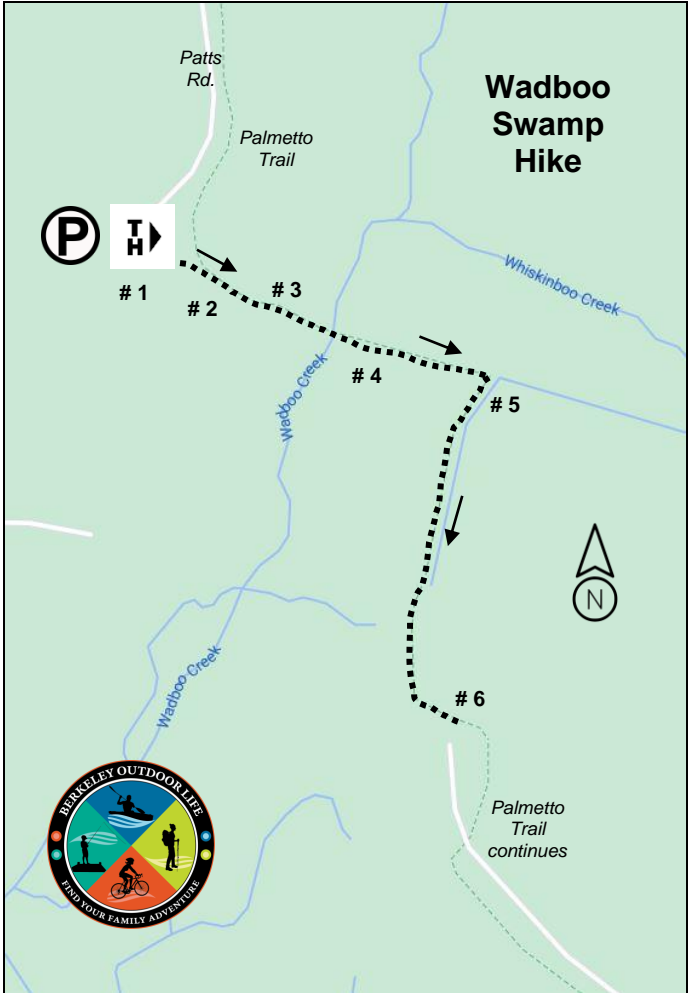
Hike where Francis Marion roamed over 240 years ago!

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Trail Surface | Mixed natural surface, dirt, mud, pine needles. Lots of raised boardwalks and bridges. |
| Crowds | Very light. Only possibility of seeing others is on the weekend. |
| Fees/Permits | None. |
| Precautions: | <p>There are many cypress “knees” on the trail. These can easily trip you up if you are not paying attention. Boardwalks, raised boards and bridges can be slippery if wet or even after overnight dew.</p> <p>Biting insects can be formidable in warmer months. Bring insect repellent.</p> |
| Trailhead Parking | <p>Patts Road, Moncks Corner, SC 29461. Park at the end of the dirt road and there is an easy to find path leading to the Palmetto Trail on the southeast side of the parking area. This begins your hike.</p> <p>GPS: 33.255464, -79.916155 33°15'19.7"N, 79°54'58.2"W</p> <p>Note: Google and other mapping programs recognize “Patts Road, Moncks Corner.”</p> |

Weather on the Trail

Click [HERE](#)





This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 6 on the next page.

| Route Directions | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1 | Begin your hike on the trail at the southeast side of the parking area leading into the woods. You might have to hop over a small muddy ditch-like depression at the edge of the parking area. |
| 2 | After walking approximately 300 ft., come to trail signage and intersection with the Palmetto Trail. Continue straight (bearing slight right) at this junction. |
| 3 | At 700-ft., begin walking downhill, descending into Wadboo Swamp valley. You will soon reach a 400-ft. long boardwalk. At nearly 0.25 mile, cross over Wadboo Creek on the Rembert C. Dennis Bridge. This area has impressive cypress trees and knees. |
| 4 | For the next 0.2 mile, walk on an old water impoundment, crossing several raised boards. Be careful with your footing here; there are many cypress knees. This is a great area to stop and take in the surrounding views of the beautiful swamp. There are some cypress knees that are over 5-ft. tall! |
| 5 | The trail takes a hard right at 0.4 mile, crossing a small bridge. Again, the views of the cypress trees, knees and swamp are otherworldly-looking in this area. |
| 6 | For the next 0.4 miles, continue walking on narrow water impoundment, paralleling a creek on your left. You will see additional water impoundments that are remnants of 19 th century rice plantations. You will eventually come to small bridge and the trail bears left. This ends your Wadboo Swamp hike. You can continue further on the Palmetto Trail; the trail quickly moves out of the Wadboo Swamp valley. Return the same way you came. |



Rembert C. Dennis Bridge over Wadboo Creek on Palmetto Trail.



There are cypress knees that are over 5-ft. tall.



Little Hellhole Swamp

19



Little Hellhole Swamp is an important bottomland habitat.

Summary

Take a quiet hike through a longleaf pine forest, traverse the namesake bottomland/swamp habitat, visit a retired ranger station with fire tower, all while hiking the state's most famous trail - the Palmetto Trail. Part of the Swamp Fox Passage, and in the Francis Marion National Forest, this easy walk guarantees a good bit of solitude. If you hike early in the morning, you might see a family of deer or a red shouldered hawk.

Difficulty

Easy or Moderate (only due to distance).

Distance

2.2 - 6.6 miles, round-trip, out-and-back hike.

Time

2 - 3 hours.

Trail Surface

Dirt and pine covered.

Saunter in the Francis Marion National Forest

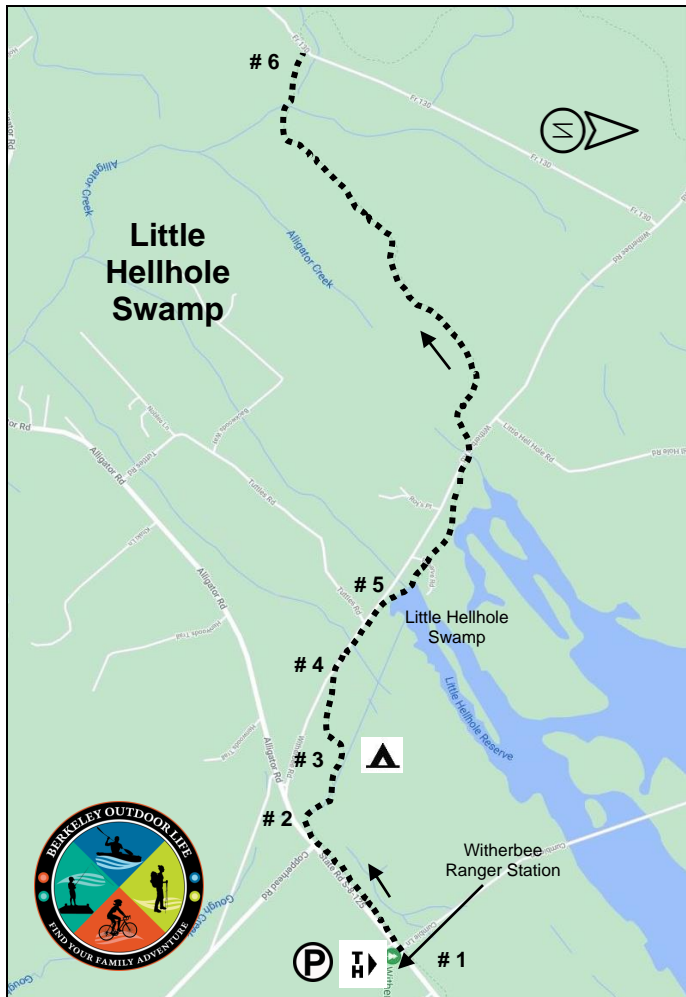
| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Trail Marker | White blazes on trees, and good signage on the trail. |
| Crowds | Very light. You are almost guaranteed to be alone. You may see others on the weekend. |
| Fees/Permits | None. |
| Precautions: | Biting insects can be formidable in the warmer months. Bring insect repellent. |
| Parking | Witherbee Ranger Station. Witherbee Rd., Cordesville, SC 29434. Google Maps recognizes "Witherbee Ranger Station" and will take you to the trailhead parking. GPS: 33.162406, -79.829825 33°09'44.7"N, 79°49'47.4"W |

Weather on the trail

Click [HERE](#)



Map - Little Hellhole Swamp



This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 6 on the next page.

| Route Directions | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1 | From the parking area at the Witherbee Ranger Station, cross Witherbee Road towards (dirt road) Cumbie Lane. Approximately 30 ft. into this dirt road, the Palmetto Trail crosses over it. Begin your hike by turning left (southwest) on the Palmetto Trail. For the first 0.5 mile, the trail parallels Witherbee Road, never more than 75 ft. from road. |
| 2 | At 0.5 mile, trail bears right (northwest). |
| 3 | Arrive at the official Witherbee campsite at 0.75 mile. This moderately sized campsite has enough room for 2-3 tents or 5-6 backpacking-style campers. It is FREE to camp here. |
| 4 | At 1.0 mile, arrive at Witherbee Road. Walk down road for 1000-ft and trail resumes into the woods on the right. |
| 5 | <p>400-ft. after leaving the road, arrive at Little Hellhole Swamp (to your right). In cooler months, you should have good views of this impressive bottomland area. There is official signage “Little Hellhole Reserve Enhancement Area.”</p> <p>After visiting the swamp, you can turn around to return the way you came. Your total hike will be 2.2 miles. Recommended: continue hiking on the Palmetto Trail until you reach Forest Service Rd. 130.</p> |
| 6 | <p>Hike another 2 miles until you reach the dirt FR130. You’ll walk through a variety of beautiful longleaf pine forests and more bottomland/swamp habitats.</p> <p>Return the same way you came.</p> |



Strange trees abound on the Little Hellhole Swamp hike.



This is part of the Swamp Fox Passage of the Palmetto Trail.



Turkey Creek / Irishtown

20



There are cypress knees throughout the Turkey Creek valley.

Summary

Step into a dark, lush, green valley with a swamp, picturesque cypress knees, and mysterious sites around every new corner. This family adventure follows the Turkey Creek valley with its countless twists and turns through the forest. Slow down and look around. This area is home to barred owls, deer and prothonotary warblers. The path through this bottomland is well marked and easy to follow. It is part of the Swamp Fox Passage of the Palmetto Trail.

Difficulty

Easy.

Distance

4.2 miles, round-trip, out-and-back hike.

Time

1.5 - 2 hours.

Step into a dark, lush green valley with mystery all around!

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Trail Surface | Dirt and pine covered, boardwalk bridge and raised boards over wet/muddy areas. |
| Crowds | Light. |
| Fees/Permits | None. |
| Precautions: | <p>Biting insects can be formidable in the warmer months. Bring insect repellent.</p> <p>This area is wet nearly year-round. Even though there are raised boards over some of the muddier sections, you might still get your shoes wet/muddy.</p> |

Parking Beginning of Hike: Irishtown Rd., Huger, SC 29450.

GPS: 33.126473, -79.775923
 33°07'35.3"N, 79°46'33.3"W

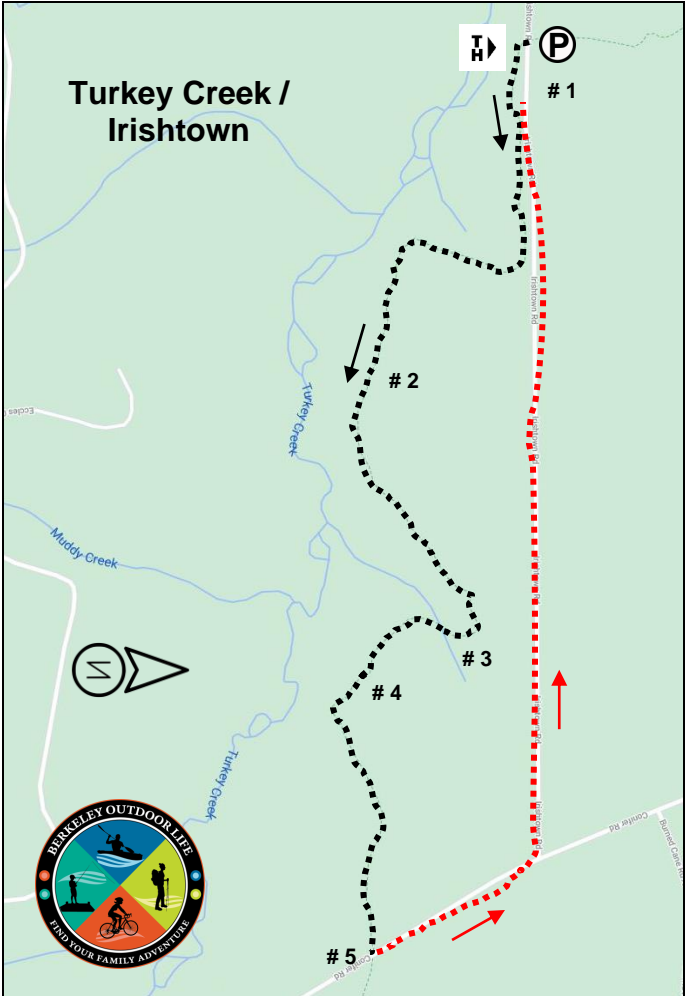
End of Hike: Conifer Rd., Huger, SC 29450

GPS: 33.123263, -79.753084
 33°07'23.8"N, 79°45'11.1"W

**Weather on
the Trail**

Click [HERE](#)





This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 6 on the next page.

| Route Directions | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1 | <p>The trailhead for this hike is located 0.6 miles east of HWY 41 down the forest service road “Irishtown Rd.” There is parking for a couple vehicles on the left/north side of the road. The hike begins on the obvious trail on the right/south side of the road.</p> <p>Begin your hike by descending into the Turkey Creek valley. Within a couple hundred feet, you’ll see the lush, wet valley off to the right. The trail continues to follow narrow Turkey Creek and its wide valley for nearly 1.7 miles.</p> |
| 2 | <p>At around 0.7 mile, you come to a series of raised walking board sections to keep you out of the mud/wet. You’ll encounter these over the next 0.2 mile.</p> |
| 3 | <p>Cross small bridge over Turkey Creek at 1.2 miles.</p> |
| 4 | <p>Shortly after crossing small bridge, the trail moves away from the Turkey Creek valley and the surrounding area makes a dramatic turn to a dryer, pine forest. It continues like this until the end of the route.</p> |
| 5 | <p>Arrive at the forest service road “Conifer Rd.” This ends the trail route.</p> <p>Return the same way you came.</p> |
| 6 | <p>Optional: You can return to your vehicle by taking a left on Conifer Rd., walking 0.25 mile, turning left on Irishtown Rd., and continuing another 1.2 miles. This is a shorter and faster route back. See dotted red route and arrows on map.</p> |



This trail is uniquely dual "blazed" white and blue.



This is a beautiful, lush and green valley year-round.

OTHER FRANCIS MARION HIKES

Berkeley Walkways



There are lots of swamp habitats in the FMNF.



Battery Warren

21



Viewing platform with views of fort embankments and the Santee River.

Summary Located on a high bluff of the Santee River, the Battery Warren is an easy stroll to an earthen Civil War fort that was used to block Union forces from moving up the river. The hike is dotted with mixed hardwood-pine and dogwoods. The original embankments of the old fort are still visible today. This hike and fort are in the Francis Marion National Forest.

Difficulty Easy and recommended for all skill levels!

Distance 1.2 miles, roundtrip, out-and-back hike.

Time Allow at least an hour to explore the old fort remains.

Trail Surface Mixed natural surface, dirt, mud, pine needles. Lots of raised boardwalks and bridges.

Hike to an earthen Civil War fort that guarded the Santee River

Crowds Very light. Only possibility of seeing others is on the weekend.

Fees/Permits None.

Precautions: The earthen fort mounds are steeper than they appear. Use caution if you decide to climb any of them.

Biting insects can be formidable in warmer months. Bring insect repellent.

Trailhead Parking Forest Rd. 204A, Francis Marion National Forest, Honey Hill area, Berkeley County.

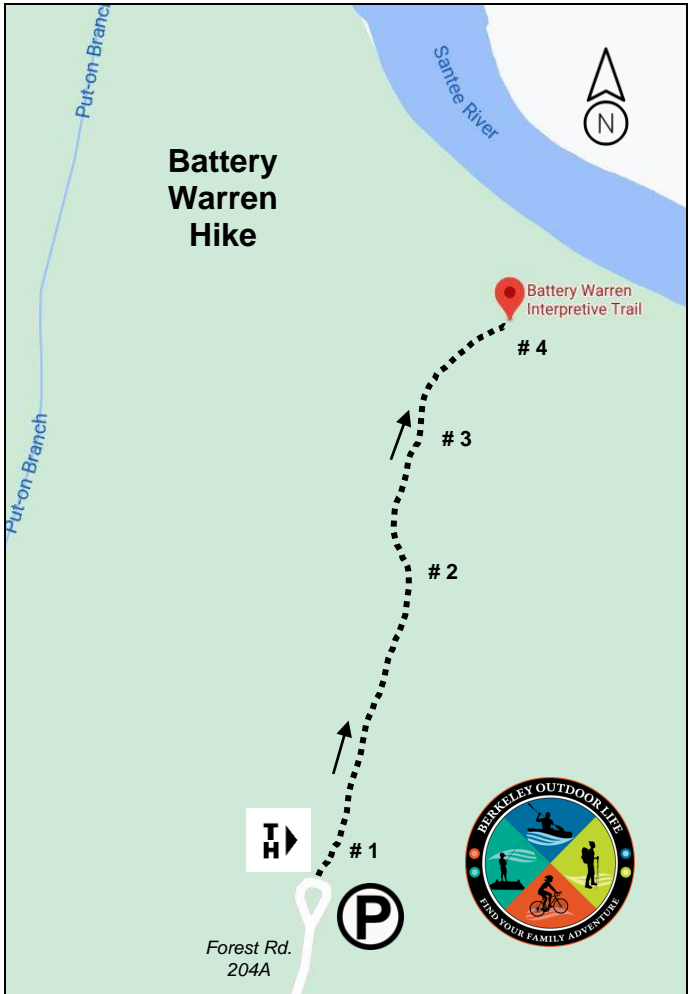
GPS: 33.243523, -79.536625
33°14'36.7"N, 79°32'11.9"W

Note: Google and other mapping programs recognize "Battery Warren Interpretive Trail" and will take you to the trailhead parking.

**Weather on
the Trail**

Click [HERE](#)





This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 4 on the next page.

| Route Directions | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1 | Begin your hike on the trail at the north side of the parking area. There is good signage and a map. Go around the metal gate and begin walking down the wide, forest service road path. |
| 2 | At nearly 0.2 mile, the trail winds to the right. |
| 3 | Trail begins slight descent into Battery Warren area at 0.3 mile, getting closer to the Santee River. |
| 4 | Arrive at the Battery Warren at 0.5 mile. Take some time and look around. The earthen fort remains and mounds span over 300-ft. wide. There is a viewing platform with excellent views of the fort and Santee River and interpretive signage. Return the same way you came. |



There are impressive views of the Santee River at the Battery Warren.



Earthen fort embankments over 160 years old.



Jericho Swamp

22



One of the 3 distinct bottomland/swamp sections of this hike.

Summary

This adventure packs a lot in its short 1.8 mile distance (one-way)! You'll visit no less than 3 distinct swamps, pass through lush valleys and other bottomlands, and visit a long-leaf pine forest. The swamps are otherworldly looking and encourage exploration. Take your time, bring a camera and look around. Strange and interesting sights are waiting to be discovered. This hike is part of the Francis Marion National Forest's Jericho Horse Trail.

Difficulty

Easy.

Distance

3.6 miles, round-trip, out-and-back hike.

Time

1.5 - 2.5 hours.

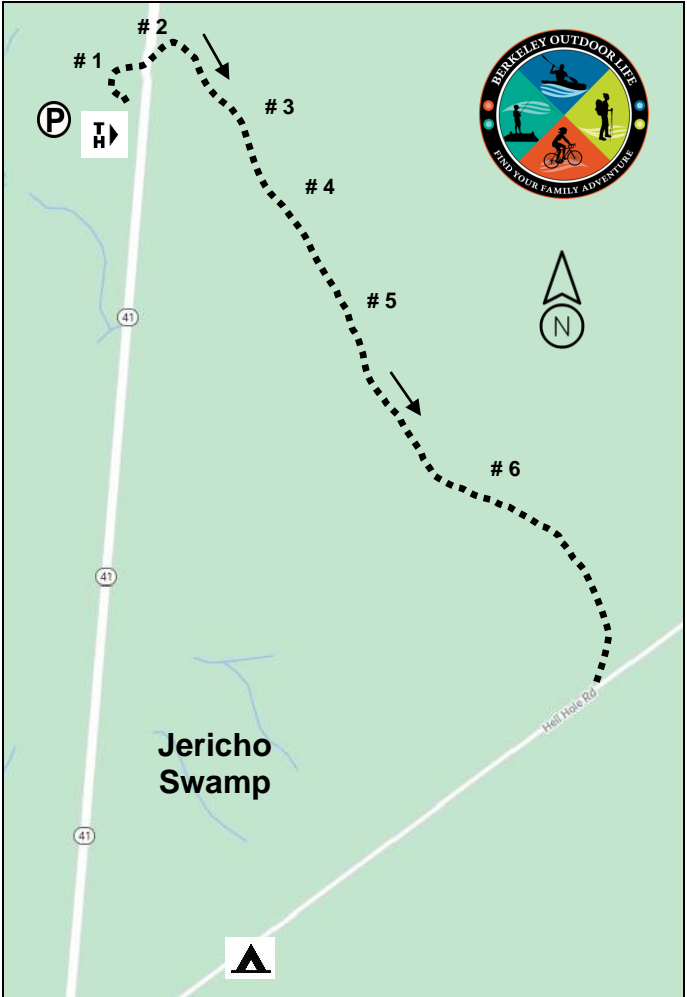
Visit multiple, otherworldly looking swamps in one short hike!

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Trail Surface | Dirt, natural surface, some wet/muddy areas. |
| Crowds | Light. |
| Fees/Permits | None. |
| Precautions: | <p>Biting insects can be formidable in the warmer months. Bring insect repellent.</p> <p>This area is wet nearly year-round. You might get your shoes wet/muddy.</p> <p><u>IMPORTANT:</u> Hikers must yield to horseback riders. Step off the trail and stop!</p> |
| Parking | <p>Beginning of Hike: 6369 SC-41, Cordesville, SC 29434.</p> <p>GPS: 33.200822, -79.765446 33°12'43.6"N, 79°45'11.8"W</p> <p>End of Hike: Hell Hole Rd., Huger, SC 29450</p> <p>GPS: 33.186617, -79.753133 33°11'11.8"N, 79°45'11.3"W</p> |

**Weather on
the Trail**

Click [HERE](#)





This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 6 on the next page.

Route Directions

1 The trailhead for this hike is located off the road for the Jericho Horse Trail parking. Approximately 80-ft. after turning onto the Jericho Horse Trail parking road, the trail crosses over this road (running north to south). This is obvious and there are blue blazes on the trees.

From where you park, to begin your hike, walk back down the road towards HWY-41 and turn **LEFT** (north) on the Jericho Horse Trail. This is easy to remember; you turn in the same direction/side as the small pond.

2 After 750-ft., cross HWY-41. The trail re-enters the woods about 100-ft. down on the right. There is obvious trail signage for this.

3 By 0.3 mile, you'll begin to enter a lush bottomland habitat with glimpses of the first of several small swamps.

4 Enter a denser swamp area at 0.5 mile.

5 At 0.7 mile, you'll arrive at the largest swamp of this hike. There's a bridge crossing over the creek here. Water levels permitting, this is a wonderful area for safe, off-trail adventure and photos!

6 By 1.2 miles, the trail begins to traverse through a long-leaf pine forest with tall grass on both sides. It remains this way until the end of the hike at 1.6 miles at Hell Hole Rd.

CAMPING OPTION: Turn right on Hell Hole Rd. and walk 0.9 mile further down the forest service road. The campsite is on the left.

Return the same way you came.



Most of the trail is narrow single track through lush, green valleys.



Color abounds in spring and summer in the Jericho Swamp.



Cooks Creek Valley

23



The Cooks Creek Valley is lush, eerie and beautiful.

Summary

Part of the Francis Marion National Forest's Jericho Horse Trail, this interesting trek takes the family hiker from Yellow Jacket Rd. to Hell Hole Rd. Most of the hike follows the wide Cooks Creek Valley. The trail is a mix of pine forest and some bottomland/swamp habitat around the Forest Rd. 165 area. Take your time and look around. You'll discover a lush, green valleys, wildflowers in spring and summer, and a pretty little pond with water lilies. This hiking route has a lot of variety in every season.

Difficulty

Moderate, but only due to distance.


Distance

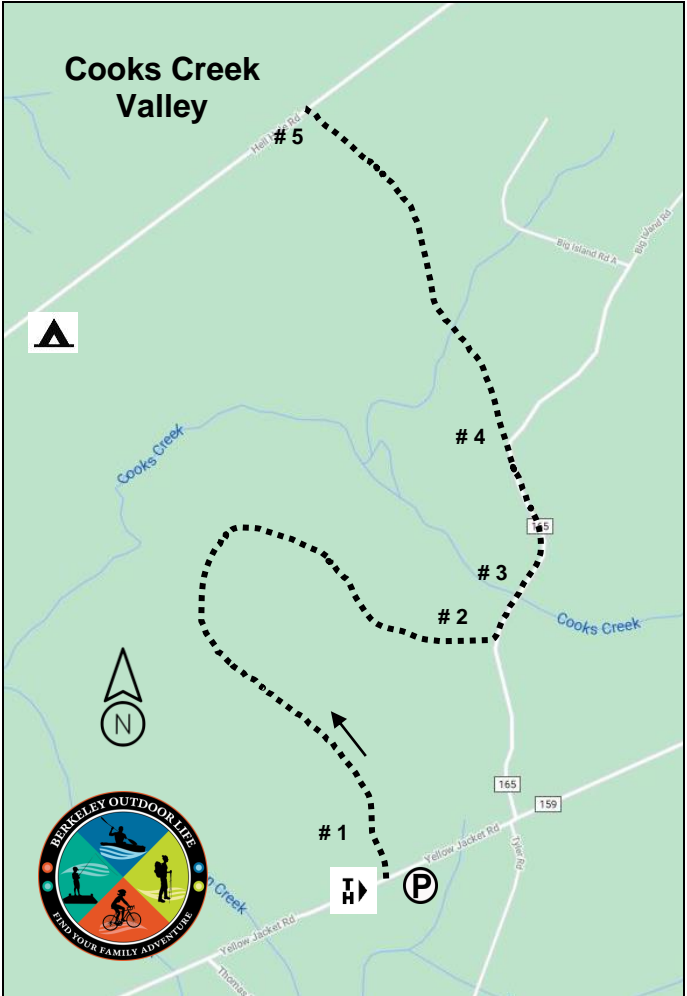
7.2 miles, round-trip, out-and-back hike.

Time

2.5 - 3.5 hours.

Hike a mix of lush single track and forest service roads

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Trail Surface | Dirt and pine covered, forest service road, some wet/muddy areas. |
| Crowds | Light. |
| Fees/Permits | None. |
| Precautions: | <p>Biting insects can be formidable in the warmer months. Bring insect repellent.</p> <p>This area is wet nearly year-round. You might get your shoes wet/muddy.</p> <p><u>IMPORTANT:</u> Hikers must yield to horseback riders. Step off the trail and stop!</p> |
| Parking | <p>Beginning of Hike: Yellow Jacket Rd., Huger, SC 29450.</p> <p>GPS: 33.162100, -79.753267 33°09'43.6"N, 79°45'11.8"W</p> <p>End of Hike: Hell Hole Rd., Huger, SC 29450</p> <p>GPS: 33.186617, -79.753133 33°11'11.8"N, 79°45'11.3"W</p> |
| Weather on the Trail | <p>Click HERE</p>  |



This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 5 on the next page.

| Route Directions | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1 | <p>The trailhead for this hike is located 1.4 miles northeast of HWY 41 down the forest service road “Yellow Jacket Rd” (also known as FR 159). There is parking at the trailhead on the left side of the road. The hike begins on the obvious trail (it’s actually an old roadbed) on the left/north side of the road.</p> <p>Begin your hike by walking the old, wide roadbed. The trail continues like this for 0.3 mile and then narrows to singletrack. Look for the blue blazes on trees.</p> |
| 2 | <p>At 1.7 miles, there is a small, beautiful pond to the left. This pond is filled with blooming water lilies in late spring and summer!</p> <p>A couple hundred feet after the pond, you’ll come to Forest Rd. 165. Turn left.</p> |
| 3 | <p>Within 0.1 mile after turning on FR 165, you’ll enter the Cooks Creek Valley. Look on both sides of the road. This is a lush, beautiful valley and exploration is encouraged.</p> |
| 4 | <p>After hiking a total of 0.6 mile on FR 165, the trail continues into the woods straight ahead on narrow singletrack.</p> |
| 5 | <p>After another 0.8 mile on the narrow singletrack, arrive at Hell Hole Rd (also known as FR 158). This is the end of your hike.</p> <p><u>CAMPING OPTION:</u> Turn left on Hell Hole Rd. and walk 0.9 mile further down the forest service road. The campsite is on the left.</p> <p>Return the same way you came.</p> |



Half-a-mile of the trail is on a beautiful forest service road.



Beautiful water lilies in summer at the pond before arriving at FR 165.