



Walkway # 12

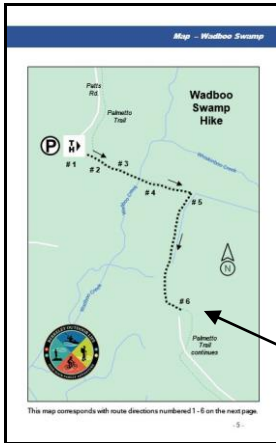
# Santee Canal (Palmetto Trail)

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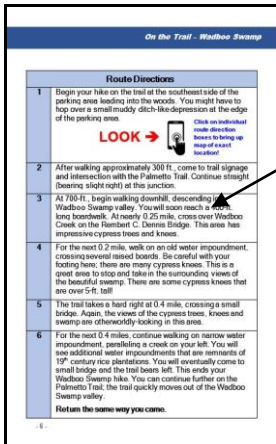


# Convenient Functionality Built into This Guide



## 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!



# Santee Canal



*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.

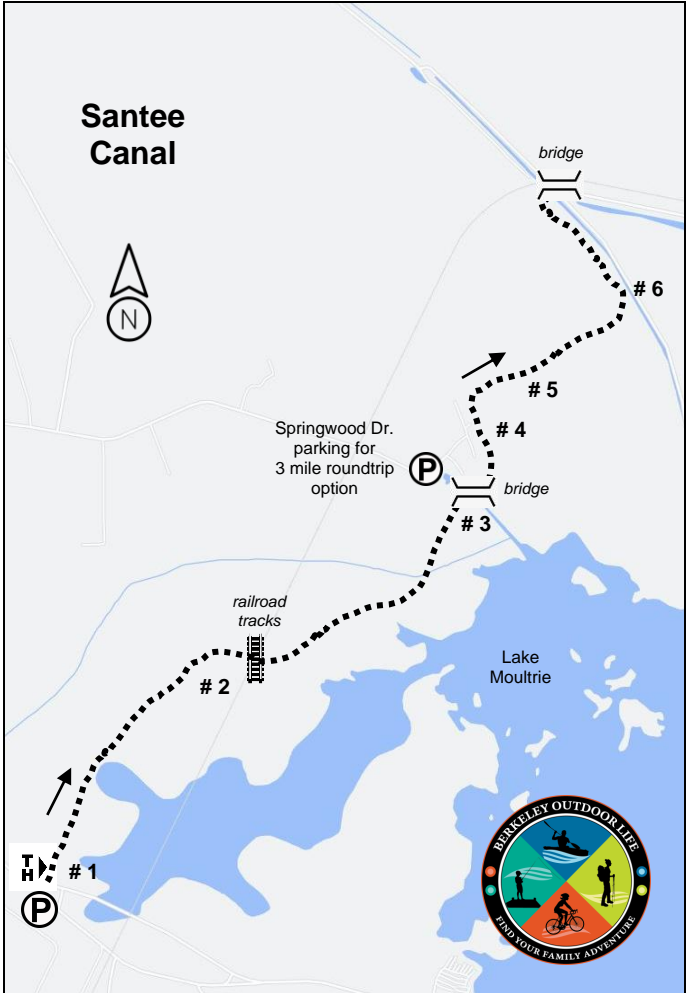
**Parking**            7.1 Mile Option - park off Viper Rd., Pineville, SC.  
GPS: 33.387071, -80.113609  
33°23'13.5"N, 80°06'49.0"W




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](#)



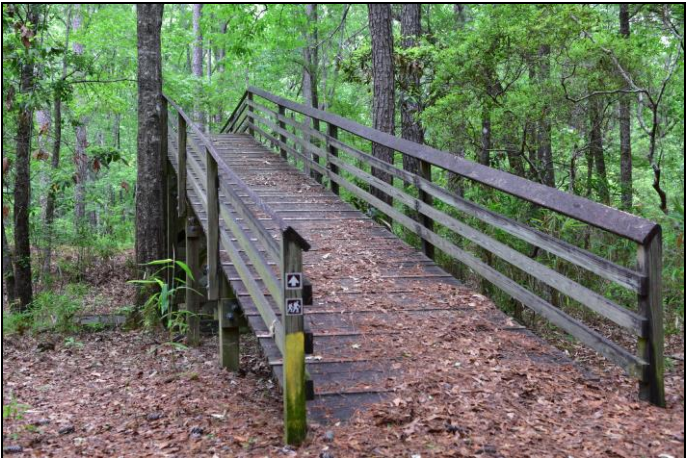


This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 6 on the next page.

<b>Route Directions</b>	
<b>1</b>	<p>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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>LOOK →</b></p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p><b>Click on individual route direction boxes to bring up map of exact location!</b></p> </div> </div>
<b>2</b>	<p>At 1.25 miles, arrive at railroad tracks. <b>IMPORTANT:</b> 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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>3</b>	<p>Arrive at large, steep bridge over N. Lake Moultrie “wayditch” at nearly 2 miles.</p> <p><b>**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.</b></p>
<b>4</b>	<p>For the next 2,000 ft., the trail parallels the RV/campground that’s on the left.</p>
<b>5</b>	<p>At 2.5 miles, trail opens to wide, grassy forest service road that is mowed.</p>
<b>6</b>	<p>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.</p> <p><b>Return the same way you came.</b></p>



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



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