



Bikeway # 15

Bikepacking Overnighter

www.BerkeleyOutdoorLife.com





Convenient Functionality Built into This Guide

Map 1 of 2 - Santee Canal N. Moultrie




This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 5, and 8.

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!



Route - Santee Canal N. Moultrie

Route Directions	
1	From the boat ramp at Angel's Landing Marina, turn left, heading in a northeast direction. LOOK →  Click on individual route directions to bring up map of exact location!
2	At 0.1 mile, pass by island of tall grass. It's best to pass on the left side, closest to the mainland. Continue in slight northeast direction.
3	Pass by tip of island at 0.6 miles. Begin to turn even more northeastern direction towards another large island 0.3 mile away.
4	At 0.9 mile, paddle around southern tip of island, head into center of bay, paddling towards upper right corner of bay. This is where the canal opening is located.
5	Enter Santee Canal at 1.4 miles. This is a narrow, shallow waterway (no more than 20 yards wide and maintains a depth of 4-5 feet). Enjoy the calm waters of the Santee Canal. Keep an eye out for wildlife, including alligators, deer, wild boar and a variety of waterfowl.
6	Come to railroad crossing over the canal at 2.8 miles. The canal will begin to narrow shortly after the railroad crossing.
7	At 3.2 miles, come to the obvious end of the canal. Return the same way you came.
8	Option: Turn a hard left when leaving the canal and head into a field of lilies. This is picturesque and worth the extra 20-30 minutes, particularly when everything is in bloom!

On Route Direction Pages:

Tap anywhere in the individual direction boxes to bring up a map of the exact location!



Bikepacking Overnighter



Entrance to Nicholson Creek Campsite, your destination on this ride!

Summary

Want to try bicycle camping (“bikepacking”) but don’t know where to go? Try Berkeley Outdoor Life’s beginner-friendly Bikepacking Overnighter route. Begin your ride at the best recreational area in the Francis Marion National Forest, ride on easy-going, pristine dirt/gravel roads, pass by beautiful bottomlands, and see towering long leaf pine habitats. Your camping destination is a large site with log benches/seating, fire rings, a table, with the beautiful Nicholson Creek swamp just a few feet away.

Difficulty

Easy.

Distance

11 miles, one-way.

Time

Take a couple hours to reach camp; this ride encourages exploration.

The best beginner-friendly bikepacking trip in the state!

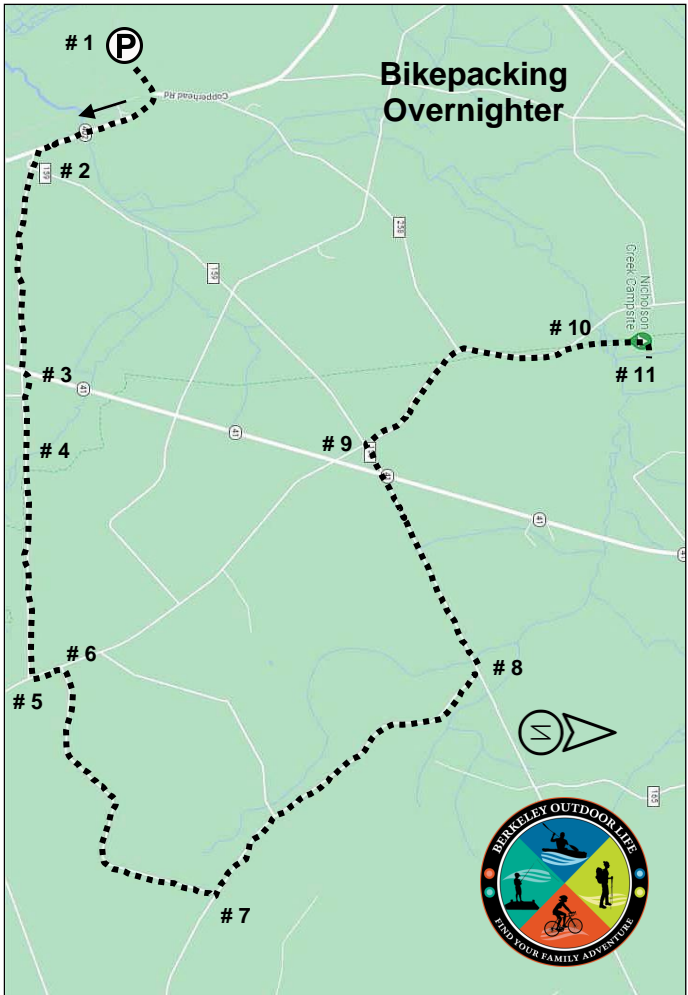
Trail Surface	Dirt, gravel, forest service roads and quarter mile of the Palmetto Trail.
Trail Marker	Most of the forest service roads on this route are signed. The Palmetto Trail is blazed white.
Bike Type	“Gravel,” hybrid or trail/mountain style bikes with tires over 45c. IMPORTANT: This overnight bike camping trip requires a bike with racks and/or the ability to attach panniers or other bags to the bike.
Crowds	Almost none. You might see the occasional vehicle on the forest roads.
Fees/Permits	No fees. Contact Francis Marion National Forest for free camping permit.
Precautions:	<p>Biting insects can be formidable in the warmer months. Bring insect repellent. After rains, you may encounter muddy conditions.</p> <p>It’s advised to wear “hunter’s orange” or other bright clothing during hunting season.</p>
Parking	Park at the Huger Recreation Area, HWY 402, Cordesville, SC 29434.

GPS: 33.133774, -79.810600
33°08’01.6”N, 79°48’38.2”W

**Weather on
the Trail**

Click [HERE](#)



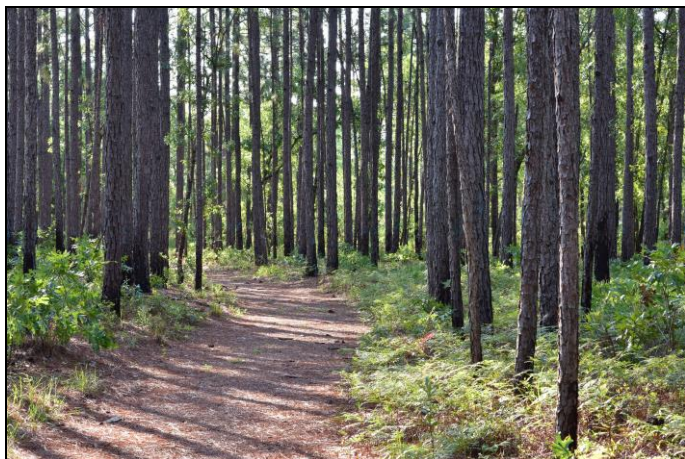


This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 11 on next page.

Route Directions	
1	Park at the Huger Recreation Area. Begin your ride by turning a right on HWY 402. Continue for nearly one-half mile.
2	<p>At 0.5 mile, turn left on the dirt/gravel Irishtown Rd. The rest of the ride is now on forest roads.</p> <p>As you ride on the forest roads, look around. You'll discover giant ferns, micro swamps, long leaf pine habitats, and other natural treasures!</p>
3	Cross over HWY 41 at 1.75 miles, continuing dirt Irishtown Rd.
4	At 2.6 miles, come to the Turkey Creek bridge. Stop and look around. There is a beautiful swamp with impressive cypress trees, "knees" and tupelos.
5	Turn left on dirt Conifer Rd. at 3.8 miles.
6	Continue 1,000 ft. and turn right on Burned Cane Rd. "A."
7	At 5.8 miles, turn left on Burned Cane Rd.
8	Turn left on Yellow Jacket Rd. at 7.8 miles.
9	Continue Yellow Jacket Rd. for 1.4 miles, crossing over HWY-41 at 9.0 miles into your ride. At 9.2 miles, turn right on Conifer Rd.
10	<p>After continuing 1.3 miles further on Conifer Rd., at 10.6 miles total distance, bear right on the Palmetto Trail.</p> <p>IMPORTANT: This is the 3rd crossing of the Palmetto Trail in this short distance on Conifer Rd. If you happen to mistake either of the first two Palmetto Trail access points, you can just ride the rest of the way to the Nicholson Creek campsite.</p>
11	Continue the Palmetto Trail for 1,500 ft. until you reach the entrance to Nicholson Creek Campsite on the right.



Sunrise on the Best Bikepacking Ride. Conifer Road in late fall.



You'll see many Long Leaf Pine sections of forest.