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**Walkway # 23**

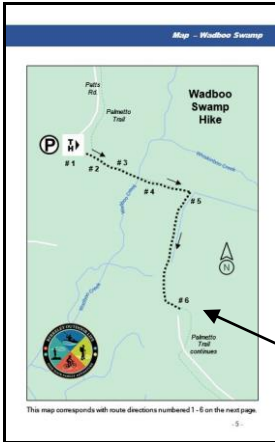
# **Cooks Creek Valley**

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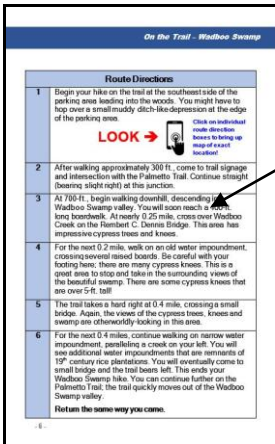
# Convenient Functionality Built into This Guide




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

## 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 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. **LOOK** →  Click on individual route direction boxes to bring up map of exact location!
- 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 765-ft., begin walking downhill, descending into Wadboo Swamp valley. You will soon reach a **short** long boardwalk. At nearly 0.25 mile, cross over Wadboo Creek on the Humbert C. Davis 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<sup>th</sup> 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.

## On Route Direction Pages:

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



# Cooks Creek Valley



*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***

<b>Trail Surface</b>	Dirt and pine covered, forest service road, some wet/muddy areas.
<b>Crowds</b>	Light.
<b>Fees/Permits</b>	None.
<b>Precautions:</b>	<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><b><u>IMPORTANT:</u></b> Hikers must yield to horseback riders. Step off the trail and stop!</p>
<b>Parking</b>	Beginning of Hike: Yellow Jacket Rd., Huger, SC 29450.



GPS: 33.162100, -79.753267  
33°09'43.6"N, 79°45'11.8"W

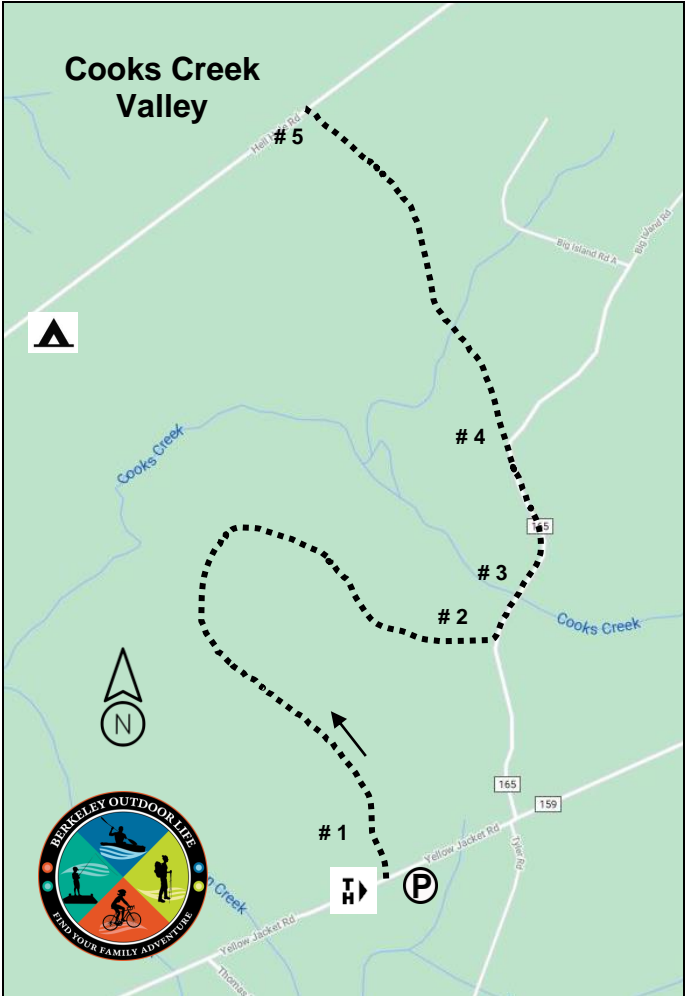
End of Hike: Hell Hole Rd., Huger, SC 29450

GPS: 33.186617, -79.753133  
33°11'11.8"N, 79°45'11.3"W

### **Weather on the Trail**

Click [HERE](#)





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

<b>Route Directions</b>	
<b>1</b>	<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>
<b>2</b>	<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>
<b>3</b>	<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>
<b>4</b>	<p>After hiking a total of 0.6 mile on FR 165, the trail continues into the woods straight ahead on narrow singletrack.</p>
<b>5</b>	<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><b>Return the same way you came.</b></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.*