



Blueway # 28

The Way Ditch and “Back Pasture”

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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.
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!



The Way Ditch & “Back Pasture”

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Group of kayakers squeezing through the “Back Pasture.”

Summary

East Lake Moultrie’s “Way Ditch” is long known as one of the best access points for a variety of recreation: fishing, boating, island camping and kayaking. The near mile-long, straight waterway is flanked on both sides by tall, stunning cypress and tupelo trees. The Way Ditch allows access to Coon Island, The Jungle, but for the purposes of this Blueway, the “Back Pasture” (Dennis’s Pasture). These areas offer abundant wildlife, vibrant flowers in warmer months, and several miles of secluded, narrow, seldom-visited scenic winding paths for paddlers.

Difficulty

Easy

Distance

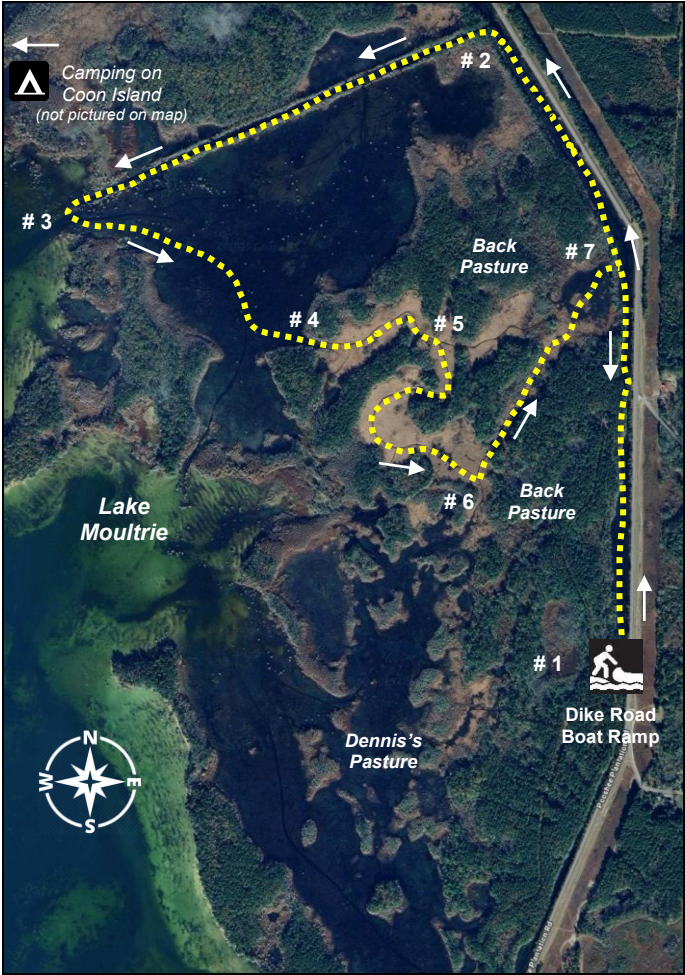
5 miles, round-trip, but options for exploration.

Time

3 hours minimum.

Crowds	Very light. You will see motorized boats/anglers at the end of the Way Ditch and near Coon Island.
Boat Type	Kayaks or canoes 12-feet or longer.
Put In / Take Out	Dike Road Boat Ramp. Dike Road, Bonneau, SC 29431. GPS: 33.353139, -79.971056 33°21'11.3"N, 79°58'15.8"W
Fees/Permits	None
Current	None to negligible.
Tidal Influence	None.
Precautions:	Winds above 10 MPH can be tough for a paddler on Lake Moultrie. There is a lot of open water for wind to intensify and cause waves/whitecaps. There are hundreds of tree stumps just inches below the water's surface. These can flip a paddler if a boat gets wedged on top. Tip: these stumps can usually be seen with polarized sunglasses.

Map – The Way Ditch & “Back Pasture”



This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 7 on page 6.

Route Directions – see map on page 5	
1	Launch from the Dike Rd. Boat Ramp, heading north (head left away from boat ramp).
2	At 1.2 mile, turn left into The Way Ditch.
3	Paddle the 0.9 mile long Way Ditch. At the end, there are beautiful cypress thickets and Coon Island is only 0.25 mile straight ahead. For this Blueway route, turn a sharp left (heading towards your 7-o'clock position). There's an obvious path here.
4	After nearly 0.5 mile further, bear east/left, heading toward the trees/vegetation. At 2.7 miles total, you'll come across another obvious path that leads into the “Back Pasture” area.
5	At 3.0 miles, at a split in the trail, bear right to continue.
6	Enjoy paddling through the “Back Pasture.” This area is secluded, quiet (except for wildlife!) and usually only accessible by kayaking. At 3.5 miles, make a sharp left, heading northeast.
7	Paddle deeper into the “Back Pasture.” At 4.2 miles, look for a small opening. If you can't find this, use the embedded GPS data in this guide. This opening is approximately 15 ft. long. Once you emerge, you're back in the long waterway that parallels the East Dike where you began your paddle. Turn right and return to the Dike Road Boat Ramp.

The Way Ditch & “Back Pasture”



Kayakers launching from Dike Road Boat Ramp.



The beautiful “Back Pasture” area of East Lake Moultrie.