



Blueway # 32

The Cooper Maze

Quinby Creek & East Branch
of the Cooper River

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!



The Cooper Maze

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Paddling in the labyrinth of The Cooper Maze.

Summary

Are you up for the challenge of “*The Cooper Maze*”? You’ll paddle on two legendary waterways in this challenging route designed for tenured paddlers. Paddle by marshland and historic rice fields, while experiencing some of the best wildlife the Low Country has to offer. Once you reach this route’s namesake, the awesome *Cooper Maze* (part of DNR’s Bonneau Ferry WMA), you’ll wander through up to 4 miles of tributary “fingers” of the mighty East Branch of the Cooper River.

Difficulty

Strenuous.

Distance

8 - 10 miles, round-trip, best suited as exploration.

Time

5 - 7 hours.

Crowds Virtually none. You might see the occasional motorized boat because of the great fishing!

Boat Type Kayaks or canoes 12-feet or longer.

Put In / Take Out Ralph Hamer Sr. Landing. 3800 Cainhoys Road, Huger, SC 29450.

GPS: 33.094700, -79.807426
33°05'40.9"N, 79°48'26.7"W

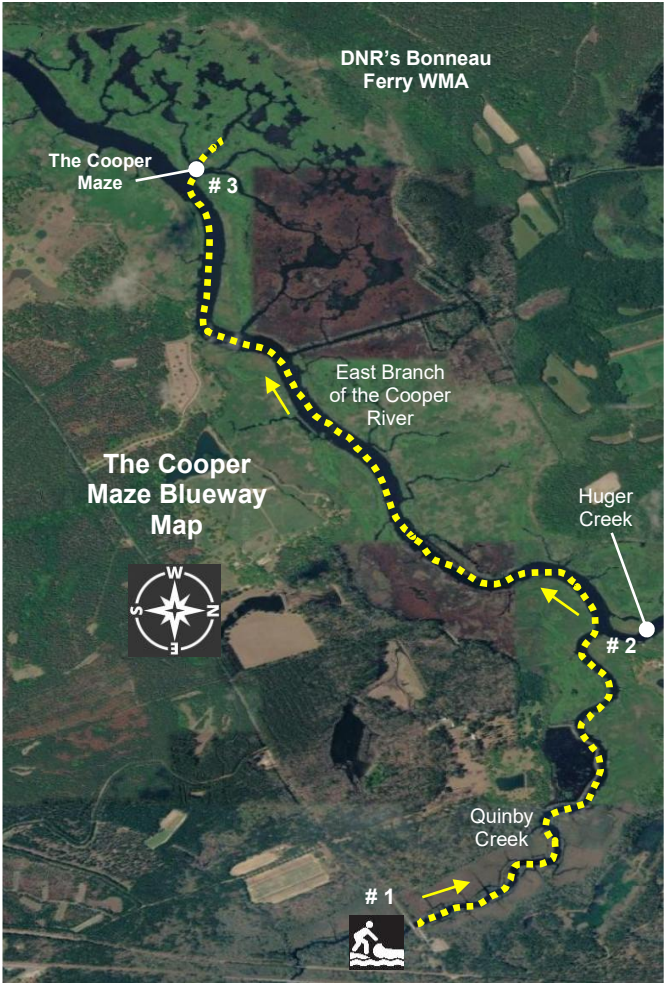
Fees/Permits None

Current Yes, strong tidal influence, approximately 2 hours behind the Charleston tide table.

Precautions:

The creek and river border tall grasses and for the entire Blueway, offering little shade; take extra water and wear a wide brim sun hat. It's highly recommended that you have a GPS device and/or use a phone GPS app with "offline" maps downloaded. *The Maze* can be confusing and it's easy to get lost. If you do find yourself misplaced, to get back to the river, move in the opposite direction of the treeline. This Blueway will have strong tidal influences. To make the adventure as enjoyable as possible, plan your trip on a day where you can ride an outgoing tide to *The Maze*, spend a few hours, and then ride the incoming tide back to the landing. This area is prone to high winds with little to block them, especially in the East Branch of the Cooper River. Even on 5-8 MPH days, the winds can feel significantly stronger, slowly your progress to a crawl. It's advisable to wear bright orange when you reach *The Maze* during waterfowl hunting season. This area is part of DNR's Bonneau Ferry WMA. Above all, plan for a long day. The Berkeley Outdoor Life team made multiple paddle trips to *The Maze* in research for this Blueway and it was always a 5 - 7 hour adventure.

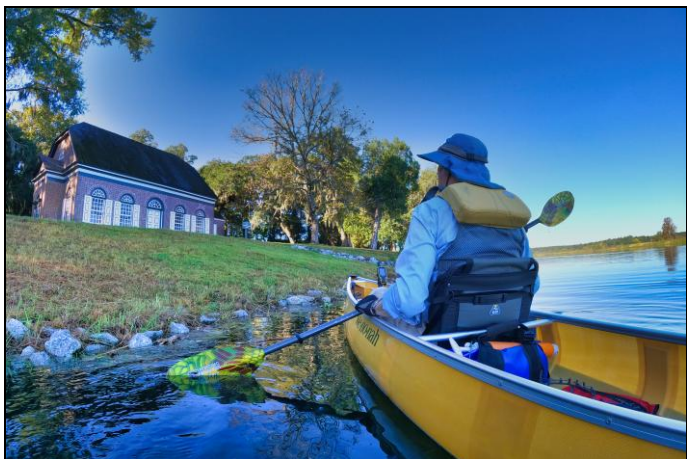
Map – The Cooper Maze



This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 3 on page 6.

Route Directions – see map on page 5	
1	This route is extremely easy to navigate with only one turn (more like bearing left) until you reach <i>The Cooper Maze</i>. Leave the boat ramp and paddle in a general northwest direction on Quinby Creek, away from the Cainhoy Road bridge (this is turning right when you leave the boat ramp).
2	The entire trip will border tall grasses and historic rice fields. At 1.3 miles, come to the intersection with Huger Creek. Continue straight / bearing left in a southwest direction. You are now on the East Branch of the Cooper River.
3	The East Branch of the Cooper River will look like Quinby Creek, except wider. Continue paddling another 2 miles. At 3.3 miles, you'll come across a 200-ft. wide opening on the right (west side of the river). This is the entrance to <i>The Cooper Maze</i>. Explore back into this stunning area with nearly 4 miles of tributary waterways. From satellite view, this area looks like the branches of a tree, and an intricate maze! Return the same way you came.

The Cooper Maze



You'll paddle right up to Pompion Hill Chapel on this blueway.



The Maze is both a big challenge and rewarding. You'll see so much here!