



Bikeway # 8

# Top of the Canal Ride

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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. <b>LOOK →</b>  <b>Click on individual route directions to bring up map of exact location!</b>
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 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. <b>Return the same way you came.</b>
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!



## Top of the Canal Ride



*This route is well marked and easy to follow.*

### **Summary**

Bike 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 ride takes you through a variety of habitats and trail types. You'll bike on wide forest service roads, visit beautiful bottomland floodplains, and cross many interesting, raised boardwalks and bridges. This trek is part of the Palmetto Trail's Lake Moultrie Passage.

### **Difficulty**

Easy or Moderate (only due to distance).

### **Distance**

7.1 miles, round-trip, out-and-back ride.

### **Time**

2 hours.

- Trail Surface**            Dirt, gravel, forest service roads, raised boardwalks and bridges.
- Trail Marker**            Yellow blazes on trees, and good signage on the trail.
- Bike Type**                Trail or “mountain” style bikes with tires over 2.0” inches.
- Crowds**                  Very light. You are almost guaranteed to be alone. You may see others on the weekend.
- Fees/Permits**            None.
- Precautions:**            Biting insects can be formidable in the warmer months. You may have to bike through shin-to-knee deep grass - ticks abound! Bring insect repellent.

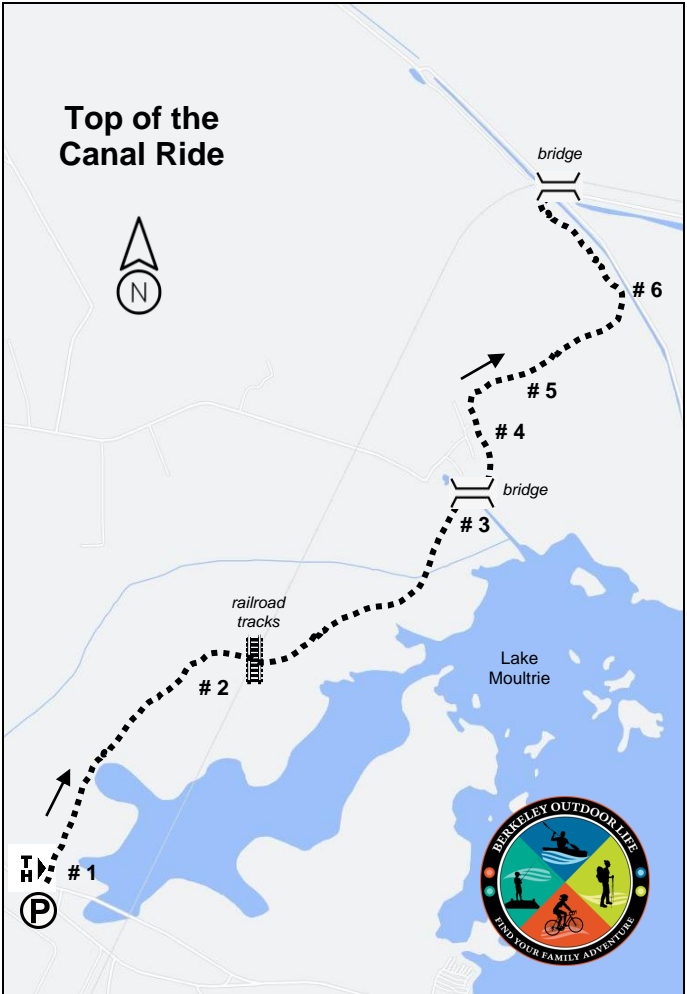


VERY IMPORTANT: If there is a train at the crossing, walk around it on the gravel. Never attempt to pass through in between the train cars. The train can start moving at any time without warning.


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

- Weather on the Trail**            Click [HERE](#)





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

Route Directions	
1	<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 ride on the wide dirt forest service road.</p> <p><b>LOOK →</b>  <b>Click on individual route direction boxes to bring up map of exact location!</b></p>
2	<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 your bike around the train 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>
3	<p>Arrive at large, steep bridge over N. Lake Moultrie “wayditch” at nearly 2 miles.</p>
4	<p>For the next 2,000 ft., the trail parallels the RV/campground that’s on the left.</p>
5	<p>At 2.5 miles, trail opens to wide, grassy forest service road that is mowed.</p>
6	<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>



*Crossing the steep bridge over the Lake Moultrie way ditch.*



*Aerial view of the top of the Santee Canal.*