

Francis Marion National Forest

South Carolina



Chicken Creek Canoe Trail

Southern Region, USDA Forest Service

Date: 09/11/2002

Highlights

This 8.2-mile trail takes the paddler down the historic Santee River, through the fast moving confines of Chicken Creek, back onto the Santee and up Wambaw Creek to the bridge at Echaw Road. Well drained oak-hickory hills along Chicken Creek provide opportunities for exploration on foot.

Put in at McConnel's Boat Landing (FS 204F). Paddle down the Santee River for approximately 4 miles and enter Chicken Creek at the end of the first big "S" curve in the river. Follow Chicken Creek until it joins back into the Santee. Once back on the Santee, continue downriver .5 miles and turn right into Wambaw Creek. Paddle upstream to the bridge at Echaw Road. Landing is on the right. Time your trip to catch the incoming tide up Wambaw Creek. (Tide is 2-3 hours later than posted for Charleston Harbor.) This trail is particularly beautiful in the spring (March-May).

Surrounding Area

Hampton Plantation State Park, South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism.
Phone: 843-546-936

Santee Coastal Reserve, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. Phone: 843-546-8665

Wambaw Creek Wilderness Canoe Trail, Francis Marion National Forest.

For More Information

Wambaw Office

PO Box 788

McClellanville, SC 29458

Phone: 843-887-3257, Fax: 843-887-3848

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Witherbee Office

2421 Witherbee Road

Cordesville, SC 29434

Phone: 843-336-3248, Fax: 843-336-4789

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Directions: From Charleston, take Hwy. 17 north to McClellanville. Turn left at blinking yellow caution light onto Hwy. 45 (French Santee Road). Drive 4 miles and turn right onto Mill Branch Road (FS Road 211). Go 5.5 miles and turn left on Echaw Road. Go 4 miles and turn right on McConnel's landing road (FS 204 F).

Length: 8.2 miles

Travel Time: 4-5 hours

Difficulty Level: easy

Camping: Camping is available at Elmwood Campground near the intersection of Mill Branch and Echaw Road. If you camp, pack in; pack out. Use only dead and downed wood for campfires. Leave campsite in natural condition.

Safety: Expect biting insects and high temperatures, during warmer months. Watch for venomous snakes (water moccasins) and sweeps (trees overhanging the river), and release from Santee Cooper . Lake Line (1-800-925-2537) provides daily updates of discharges and general lake conditions.

Sewee Visitor and Environmental Education Center

5821 US Highway 17 North

Awendaw, SC 29429

Phone: 843-928-3368, Fax: 843-928-3848

Hours: Tuesday-Sunday 9 a.m.--5 p.m.

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Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests

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