



Paddle # 6

# Coon Island

## East Lake Moultrie

[www.BerkeleyBlueways.com](http://www.BerkeleyBlueways.com)

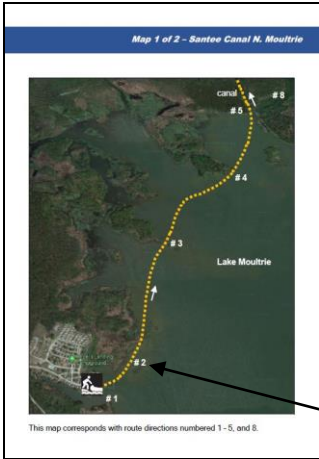
Distance: 7 miles, round-trip

Time: 2-3 hours

Difficulty: Easy to Moderate



# Convenient Functionality Built into This Guide





## 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>  <i>Click on individual route directions to bring up map of exact location!</i>
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  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!

## Coon Island – E. Lake Moultrie



Date Paddled: \_\_\_\_\_

# 6



*Primitive camping on Coon Island is fun and FREE!*

### **Summary**

Coon Island is known as one of the best places for primitive camping on Lake Moultrie (locals may also call this “Coon Hill Island”). There is a beautiful beach with high ground on its south side. Camping is permitted on a first come, first serve basis, and the area is large enough to support many campers.

### **Difficulty**

Easy to moderate

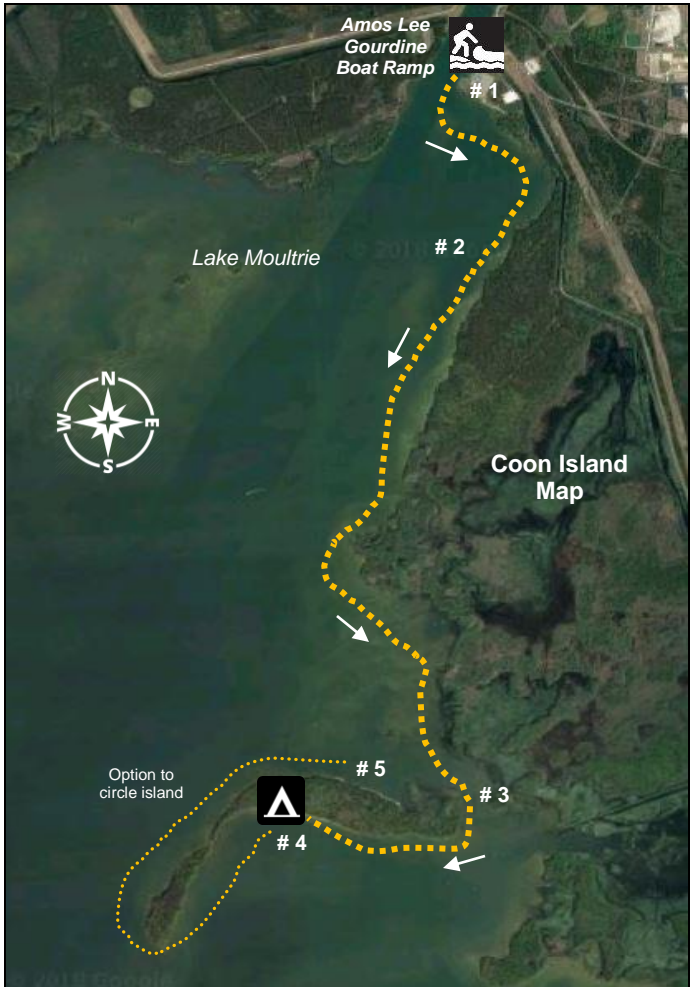
### **Distance**

7 miles, round-trip

### **Time**

2 - 3 hours; although, we recommend spending the night/camping on this great island!

<b>Crowds</b>	Moderate. You're almost guaranteed to see boaters/anglers, and you'll probably see other paddlers on the weekends.
<b>Boat Type</b>	Kayaks or canoes 10 feet or longer. Paddle boards are not recommended.
<b>Put In / Take Out</b>	Amos Lee Gourdine Boat Ramp, Russel Store Road, St. Stephen, SC 29479  <u>GPS</u> : 33.402138, -79.992848 33°24'07.7"N, 79°59'34.3"W  <u>Directions</u> : All GPS and mapping applications recognize this address.
<b>Fees/Permits</b>	None
<b>Current</b>	Negligible, generally south direction
<b>Tidal Influence</b>	None
<b>Precautions:</b>	You'll stay close to the shoreline on most of this route. Winds can intensify on Lake Moultrie resulting in 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. <b>Tip</b> : these stumps can usually be seen with polarized sunglasses.

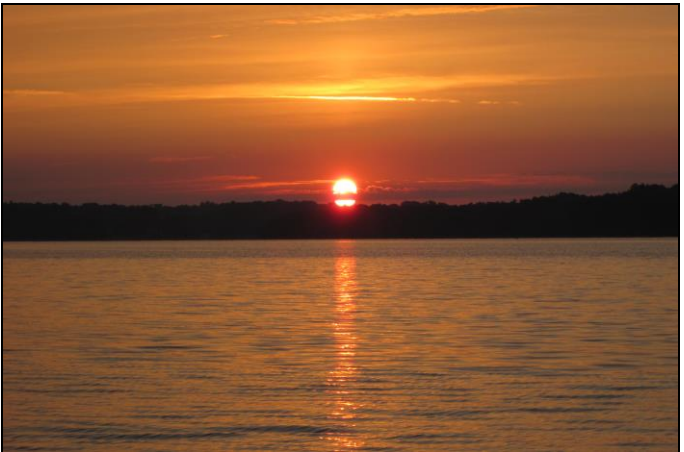


This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 5 on page 6.

<b>Route Directions – see map on page 5</b>	
<b>1</b>	From the Amos Lee Gourdine Boat Ramp, turn left, going around the peninsula, and head in a south direction, staying close to the shore.
<b>2</b>	Continue paralleling shore and the general treeline for the next 2.8 miles. This is a beautiful shoreline with a mix of pine and occasional tupelo trees. Look for nesting osprey in shorter trees out in the water in this area.
<b>3</b>	At 2.9 miles, reach the eastern tip of Coon Island. Continue in a south direction around the tip, bear right/west and paddle close to the shore.
<b>4</b>	<p>The southern side of the island has a long beach. Depending on water levels, this beach can be between 1,000 - 2,000 long. This is fantastic place to stop for lunch, take pictures of waterfowl, and has some of the best camping on Lake Moultrie.</p> <p>When you finish your exploration of the south side of Coon Island, return the same way you came.</p>
<b>5</b>	<u>Option</u> : Continue paddling around the shore line of the entire island. This will extend your paddle by nearly 2 miles. The north side of the island has additional camping opportunities and smaller beaches.



*You'll paddle across open water to get to Coon Island, but it's easy!*



*When camping on Coon Island, this will be your evening "back porch!"*