



Paddle # 9

# **Santee River 1**

## **Wilson's Landing to HWY 52**

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

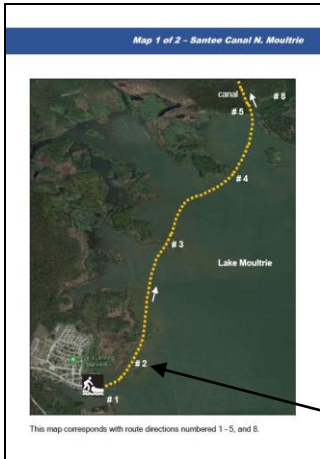
Distance: 25 miles

Time: 9-12 hours

Difficulty: Very Strenuous



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



## Santee River – Wilson’s Landing

# 9

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



*There are a few Class 1 riffles on this section of the Santee River.*

### Summary

Wilson’s Landing is located on the tailrace of the Lake Marion Dam. This is the longest paddle in the Berkeley Blueways program. This 25-mile section of the Santee River is best attempted by camping overnight and making two days of the adventure. During most water levels, there are many sandbars along the trip. There is very little sign of human habitation and wildlife is abundant.

### Difficulty

Very strenuous, due to distance and the potential of Class 1 riffles. Tenured paddlers only!

### Distance

25 miles

### Time

9 - 12 hours of paddling

<b>Crowds</b>	Very light. You're likely to only see motorized boats near the two landings. Not many paddlers make this journey either.
<b>Boat Type</b>	Kayaks or canoes 14-feet or longer, with room for overnight camping provisions. Paddle boards are not recommended.

**Requires staging 2 vehicles or arranging pickup!**

<b>Put In</b>	Wilson's Landing, 1541 Wilson Landing Road, Pineville, SC 29468.
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GPS: 33.448418, -80.158270  
33°26'54.3"N, 80°09'29.8"W

<b>Take Out</b>	HWY 52/Santee River Bridge, 15 US 52, Salters, SC 29590
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GPS: 33.497546, -79.959332  
33°29'50.8"N, 79°57'33.7"W

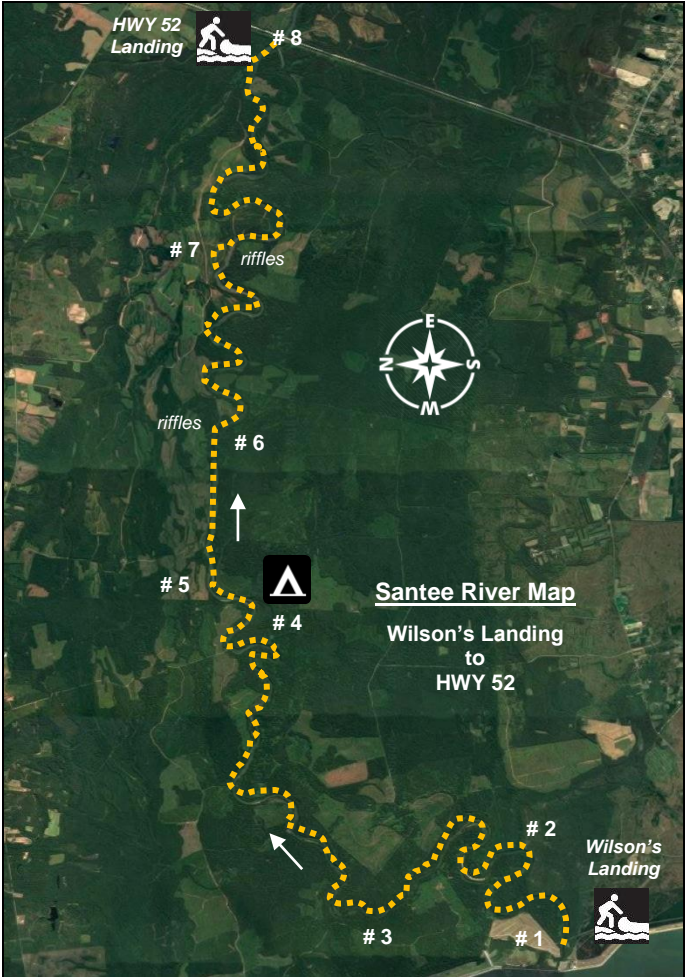
<b>Fees/Permits</b>	None
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<b>Current</b>	Flows downriver in an east direction.
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<b>Tidal Influence</b>	Extremely negligible tidal influence this far up the river.
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<b>Precautions:</b>	Motorized boats go up and down the river near the two landings. While normally not a problem for paddlers, dam water releases could inundate campsites. Call 800-925-2537 for scheduled releases.
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**Map – Santee River Wilson’s Landing**



This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 8 on page 6.

<b>Route Directions - see map on page 5</b>	
<b>1</b>	<p>From the boat ramp, turn right to begin paddling down river. For most of the river, you can expect a 1 - 3 MPH current, depending on width and water levels.</p> <p>Option: Turn left to paddle up river approximately 1,000 ft. to the Lake Marion Dam. This is a great place for photos. <b>IMPORTANT</b> -- Do not cross buoys and/or metal safety cables.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p>For first 4.5 miles, the river makes five sweeping curves. You are likely to see Great Blue Herons and White Egrets in this quiet section.</p>
<b>3</b>	<p>At 6.6 miles, there's a creek/tributary to your left/west in a small cove. If time and water levels permit, this is a pleasant 1.4-mile paddle back to the Lake Marion Dam.</p>
<b>4</b>	<p>At near the halfway point, between miles 12.2 - 13.0 there are reliable sandbars for camping.</p>
<b>5</b>	<p>Begin near 2-mile long, wide straightaway section of river.</p>
<b>6</b>	<p>Immediately after the straightway section, at 15.3 miles, come up on a large shoal area with Class 1 riffles. You should be able to hear the riffles coming up at least a quarter-mile before.</p> <p><b><u>VERY IMPORTANT:</u></b> It's recommended that you stop and examine the riffles. At just about every water level, it's recommended that you <u>paddle down the left, narrow passageway.</u></p>
<b>7</b>	<p>At 19.4 miles, come upon another larger section of riffles. You shouldn't have to stop and examine this section. Paddle straight through.</p>
<b>8</b>	<p>End your paddle at the Highway 52 bridge/boat ramp.</p>

*Photos -- Santee River Wilson's Landing*



*Great Blue Heron in early morning near the Wilson's Landing boat ramp.*



*Beautiful early morning light and fog rising from the Santee River.*