

Francis Marion National Forest

South Carolina



I'on Swamp Interpretive Trail

Southern Region, USDA Forest Service

Date: 11/26/2002

Highlights

A fascinating walk through a wetland world, this historic, self-guided interpretive trail traverses embankments built by humans dating back to the 1700's. The embankments and ditches were built to create a patchwork of fields or impoundments for rice production during the lucrative rice era of the lowcountry. Interpretive signs inform visitors of the history of this magnificent swamp.

With water pooling on both sides of the trail, travelers will witness a wide array of wildlife, from the wood duck to the yellowbelly slider turtle and the great blue heron. Alligators float in the serene pools alongside the trail, while a river otter occasionally scoots across the scenic footpath.

Surrounding Area

- *Buck Hall Recreation Area, Francis Marion National Forest
- *Sewee Shell Mound Interpretive Trail, Francis Marion National Forest
- *Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, Phone (843) 928-3264

For More Information

Wambaw Office

P.O. Box 788

McClellanville, SC 29458

Phone: (843) 887-3257

Fax: (843) 887-3848

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

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Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests

4931 Broad River Road, Columbia, SC 29212-3530 (803) 561-4000

Directions: From Charleston, take US Highway 17 north to I'on Swamp Road (FS Road 228). turn left and drive 2 miles to the trailhead on the left.

Camping: not permitted

Difficulty level: moderate

Length: 2 miles, loop.

Restrictions: Hikers and day use only; no camping

Safety: During temperate months, be prepared for biting insects and high temperatures. Be advised of big game and waterfowl hunting seasons. Avoid using the trail during excessively wet periods.

Season: Year-round; from December through March, a large portion of the trail may be submerged to provide habitat for waterfowl.

Surface Type: unsurfaced, grassy

Travel time: 2 hours

Sewee Visitor and Environmental Education Center
5821 US Highway 17 North

Awendaw, SC 29429

Phone: (843) 928-3368

Fax: (843) 928-3828

Hours: Tuesday–Sunday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

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