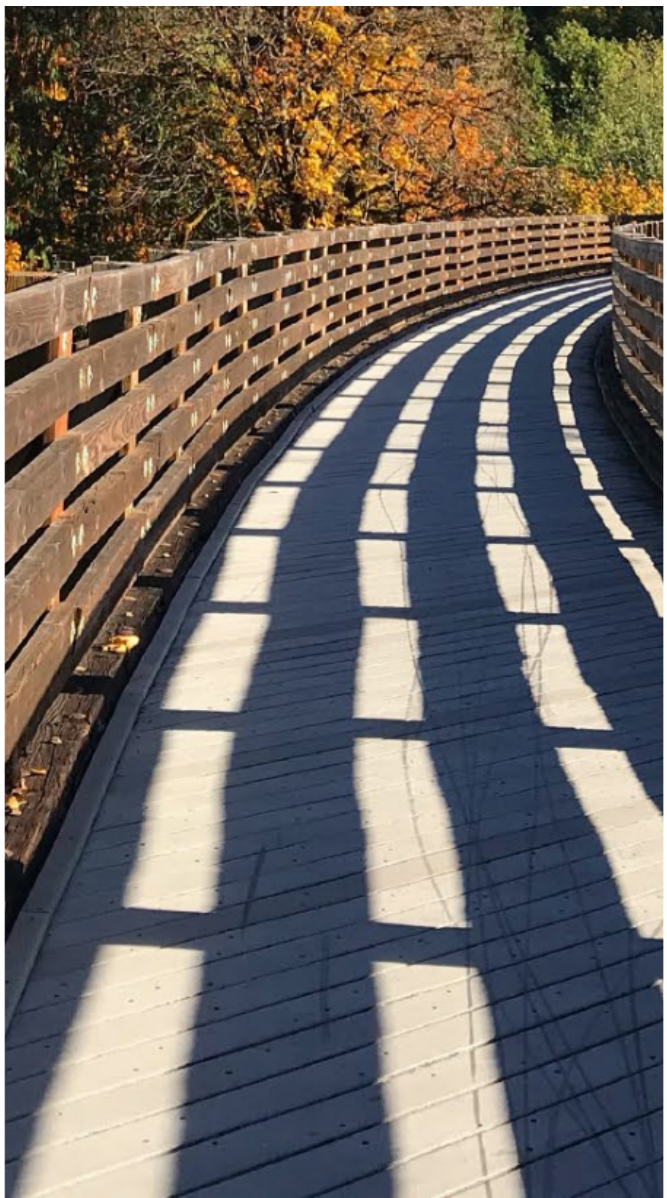
TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

2025

TrailLink Unlimited

Guides



Swamp Fox Passage (Palmetto Trail)

South Carolina

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The Swamp Fox Trail is one of South Carolina Lowcountry's oldest trails and offers a long, flat, one-way journey through the swampy wetlands and coastal pine forests of Francis Marion National Forest. The total length of the trail is 46.4 miles, but only the eastern 27 miles are designated as a National Recreation Trail.

About the Route

A portion of the lengthy hiking and mountain biking trail follows the path of an old railroad grade, for about fifteen miles in Charleston County and just across the county line into Berkeley County. However, the rough surface and variable grades along the trail make this not your typical rail-trail experience, so be prepared for a hike and be sure to pack water, as there is only one available source along the 42-mile route.

A diverse array of wildlife such as deer, wild turkey, furbearers, songbirds and waterfowl is abundant along the trail. Be aware that after heavy rains the grassy savanna around Dog Swamp and Turkey Creek may have standing water.

Trail History

When Revolutionary War General Francis Marion sought refuge from British troops in the state's Lowcountry swamps, he earned the nickname "Swamp Fox." His guerilla tactics and legendary reputation eventually led Boy Scout leaders to name this trail after Marion when it was originally built in 1968.

Connections

At its northwest trailhead, the Swamp Fox Passage connects to the Lake Moultrie Passage, which is the next section of the Palmetto Trail. From its southeastern terminus, you can continue on the Palmetto Trail to the coast via the Awendaw Passage (Palmetto Trail).

Swamp Fox Passage (Palmetto Trail)

South Carolina

States: South Carolina
Counties: Berkeley,Charleston
Length: 46.4miles
Trail end points: N US-52 (Bonneau) to US-17 (Awendaw)
Trail surfaces: Dirt,Grass
Trail category: Rail-Trail
Trail activities: Fishing,Horseback Riding,Mountain Biking,Walking

Parking & Trail Access

The Swamp Fox Passage (Palmetto Trail) runs between N US-52 (Bonneau) and US-17 (Awendaw), both of which offer parking.

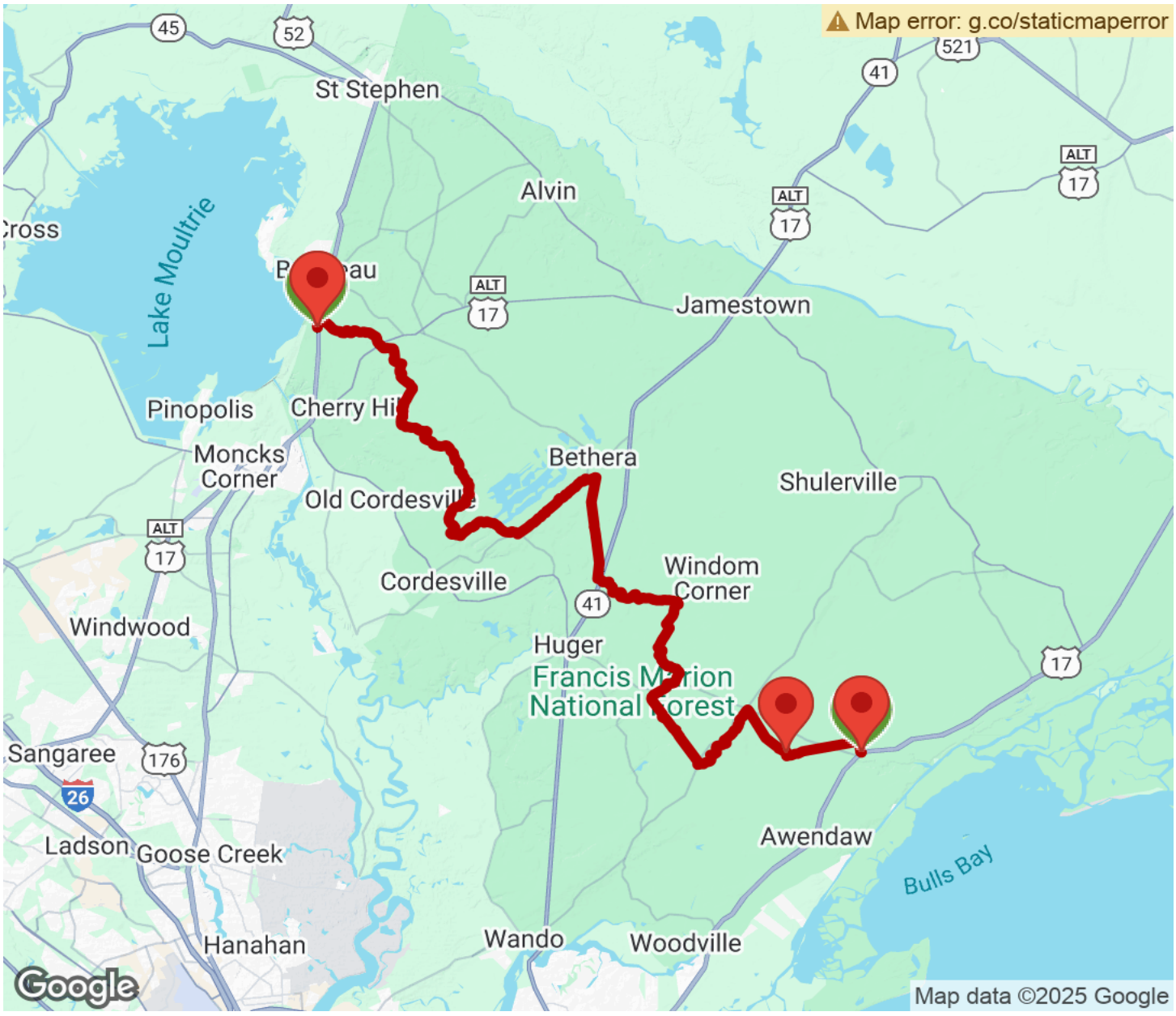
Parking is also available at:

- Willow Hall Rd (Awendaw)

These are not official addresses, please visit the TrailLink map for detailed directions.

Swamp Fox Passage (Palmetto Trail)

South Carolina



Trailhead Restroom Parking Water Fountain Tunnel

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