

Water Trail

Turkey/Stevens Creek Canoe

(Edgefield/McCormick Counties)



Description: As the dividing line between rural Edgefield and McCormick counties, Turkey and Stevens Creeks slice through deep woodlands for 12 miles of easy paddling toward the Savannah River. Paddlers have long held this trip in high esteem. The Sumter National Forest bounds much of both creeks and -- to guard the experience -- the Forest Service established a protective corridor to prevent timber harvesting within 100 yards of their banks. The hardwood forest is thought to be a leftover from the glacial period, and a sprinkling of large baldcypress and cypress knees create an unusual experience. The banks are a paradise of wildflowers such as the striking red lobelia in summer. Other land along the creeks includes floodplain forest, where quiet paddlers can see the usual deer and turkey in addition to birds such as kingfishers and pileated woodpeckers. Float time depends on water levels. In high water months of spring and summer, it takes approximately six hours; by late summer or fall, float time can stretch to eight hours or longer. But the striking fall colors make the trip worthwhile.

Length: Approximately 12 miles one way

Fees: None

Access Points:

Mileage is approximate and for reference only.

Mile 0 - SC 283 Bridge - Steps lead from a paved parking area. From Edgefield, drive northwest on US 25 approximately 4 miles and turn left onto SC 283. Continue to the bridge at the county line.

Mile 4 - Key Bridge - Steps lead to the water at the abandoned steel bridge. From Edgefield, drive west on SC 23 to Miller's Crossroads and turn right onto Edgefield County S-19-68. Drive approximately 5 miles to the bridge.

Mile 7.5 - FS Road 629D - Canoe throw-in. Turkey and Stevens creeks join here. From Edgefield, drive west on SC 23 to Miller's Crossroads and turn right onto Edgefield County S-19-68. Drive 1.7 miles and turn left onto Cold Springs Road (S-19-118). Drive for 1 mile and turn right onto Blair Road (Forest Service Road 629). Turn right onto Forest Service Road 629D (first right) and go to the landing.

Mile 12 - Modoc Bridge - This is the last access/take-out and is on the left just above the bridge. Stairs provide easy access to or from the creek. From Edgefield, drive west on SC 23 to the Modoc Bridge at the county line.

Hours: Year-round

Camping: Camping is permitted in Sumter National Forest. Consult the district ranger's office for more information.

Information: [Sumter National Forest](#), Long Cane Ranger District, 810 Buncombe St., Edgefield, SC 29824-1021 Telephone: 803-637-5396.

