



## A Map & Guide to the Scenic Ashley River



### WELCOME TO THE ASHLEY RIVER BLUE TRAIL

The Ashley River Blue Trail starts south of Schulz Lake at Sland's Bridge as a narrow stream with overhanging trees on its banks and much of the bordering land undeveloped before opening up in to a tidal river with broad vistas framed by the marsh and distant trees to end south of Charles Towne Landing.

The 30 mile Blue Trail invites the paddler to explore this rich historical and natural area that includes iconic plantations predating the Revolutionary War along with pristine habitat for diverse wildlife. Several creeks are also available to paddle and explore, like Church and Town Creeks, and can provide sanctuary to paddlers from the larger motor boats that frequent the lower river.

The historical, cultural, and natural significance of the Ashley River cannot be overstated. The river provides home for fish and wildlife, scenic landscapes, and opportunities for families to enjoy time together outside.

Learn how you can protect the Ashley and other hometown rivers by visiting:

[BlueTrailsGuide.org](http://BlueTrailsGuide.org)

**SCHULZ LAKE**  
The headwaters of the Ashley River gather in the Wassamasaw Basin, flow through the Great Cypress Swamp, and enter Schulz Lake. This oxbow lake was believed to be the ideal water source for the thriving 18th century rice culture at Ponds Plantation.  
32.972364, -80.273322

**SLAND'S BRIDGE**  
32.967851, -80.249312

**ROSEBROCK PARK**  
32.94891, -80.20603

**AQUEDUCT TOWER**  
32.958904, -80.201576



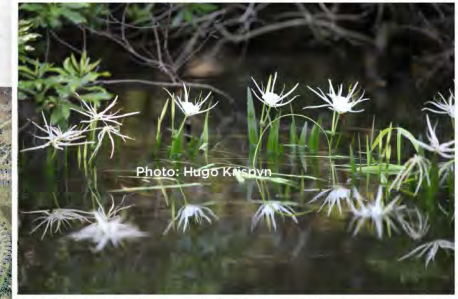
**BACON'S BRIDGE**  
Highway 165 crosses Bacon's Bridge on the site of a historic Indian trail. In 1780, as part of his defense of Charleston against the British, General William Moultrie had an earthen fort built here. This was also the site of a weir dam that prevented saltwater intrusion into the upper river.  
32.958375, -80.200592



**ASHLEY RIVER PARK**  
Scheduled to open in late 2016  
32.958375, -80.200592

**COLONIAL DORCHESTER STATE HISTORIC SITE**  
You can find the largely undisturbed 1697 trading town of Dorchester, and a powder magazine and tabby fort constructed in 1757. The site's preserved archaeological remains give visitors a peek into the early history of colonial South Carolina.  
32.949710, -80.170622

**HERBERT H. JESSEN LANDING**  
32.948117, -80.164769



**MIDDLETON PLACE**  
Middleton Place is an 18th century rice plantation with 65 acres of America's oldest landscaped gardens. It was home to a President of the First Continental Congress and a signer of the Declaration of Independence.  
No public access by boat.  
32.900020, -80.136466



**CONSERVATION**

The Ashley River is a beautiful, largely undisturbed black water stream in its upper section and becomes a broader, tidally-influenced river as it passes the historic plantation sites. It has significant historical and natural importance to the region and the nation.

In 1992, the South Carolina Department of Archives and History and the Office of Coastal Resource Management joined with local citizens to create the Ashley River Special Area Management Plan with the goal of preserving the Ashley's natural and historic character.

Public interest led to the designation of the Ashley as a State Scenic River in 1998-1999 to preserve its outstanding qualities. In recent years, the Dorchester County Council's citizen commissions helped create a network of parks, and protected special parts of the county.

Healthy rivers such as the Ashley provide opportunities for active living through boating, swimming and fishing as well as provide outdoor classrooms for youth. Adequately buffered waterways provide protection for wildlife and provide places where today's adventures share a link with our region's past.

To learn how you can get involved, visit [BlueTrailsGuide.org/Rivers/Ashley/](http://BlueTrailsGuide.org/Rivers/Ashley/)