

BAYBORO TO VANDEMERE

(Trail #1)

Time: 3 – 4 hours

Distance: 8 Miles

PADDLE DESCRIPTION

This paddle is sheltered until Trent Creek then it is subject to wind and waves from the south and east.

Waterfowl abound during migrations and there are many small beaches for rest stops.

Paddle east of the North Prong from the Bayboro Waterfront Park, past the fishing fleet, and bear left and follow the channel markers down Bay River. At Marker 15 is the entrance to Raccoon Creek. Just past Marker 15 paddle inside Raccoon Island and across the entrance to Trent Creek (Marker 11) Noteworthy explorations on the western shore include Raccoon Creek (Kayak/Canoe Access), Chapel Creek, Newton Creek (Kayak/Canoe Access and Environmental Park) and Smith Creek.

Paddle past the docks at Vandemere, taking care to stay outside the white marker to avoid dangerous, low pilings. Cut to the left just past the fish plant and watch for the take-out ramp on the left.

As an option, you may elect to explore Vandemere and Long Creeks before taking out at the fish plant.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

Bayboro Waterfront Park: Near the Courthouse in Bayboro turn left of NC-55 onto NC-304. Go about 200 yards and the Waterfront Park will be on your right. Ample parking is available.

Vandemere: Near the Courthouse in Bayboro turn left of NC-55 onto NC-304. Go about 6 miles and turn right on NC-307. Proceed to the end of the road (about 1-1/2 miles) and turn left. Access is behind the fish plant.

BAYBORO TO DAY'S LANDING

(Trail #2)

Time: 3 – 4 hours

Distance: 10 miles

PADDLE DESCRIPTION

This paddle is sheltered until Trent Creek then it is subject to wind and waves from the south and east. Waterfowl abounds during migrations and there are many small beaches for rest stops.

Paddle east of the North Prong from the Bayboro Waterfront Park, past the fishing fleet, and bear left and follow the channel markers down Bay River. At Marker 15 is the entrance to Raccoon Creek. Just past Marker 15 paddle inside Raccoon Island and across the entrance to Trent Creek (Marker 11).

Following the eastern shore of Bay River, paddle east toward Mason Point and along the shore of Mason Creek (a sheltered escape to Florence Road) to Moore Creek. Just on the inside of Moore Creek, on the eastern shore, is a possible take-out at Bobby's Boat Landing. Continue northeast to Bell Point then past Little Pasture and Rice Creeks to the entrance to Ball Creek at Cedar Point. Along the 1-mile route to Day's Landing you might want to explore the fine homes and boats along Pasture, Cabin and Simpson Creeks or even paddle to the head of Ball Creek (1/2 mile) before taking-out.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

Bayboro Waterfront Park: Near the Courthouse in Bayboro turn left of NC-55 onto NC-304. Go about 200 yards and the Waterfront Park will be on your right. Ample parking is available.

Day's Landing: From the Courthouse in Bayboro, follow NC-55 East about 5 miles to Florence Road. Turn left and go about 5-1/2 miles to Day's Landing Road (just past the firehouse). Turn left and follow road to its end at Ball Creek (about 1/2 mile). Parking is available. There is a FEE BOX at this ramp.

MERRITT TO BAYBORO

(Trail #3)

Time: 2 – 3 hours

Distance: 7 miles

PADDLE DESCRIPTION

Trent Creek is an attractive half-day outing near the Pamlico County Seat. From the access point on Spruill Road, paddle north on the creek. Pass under NC-55 and continue paddling north towards Bay River. Along the way you'll pass Thomas Creek on your right and Alligator Creek on your left. (There is a launch ramp on NC-55 at Alligator Creek.) At Green Marker 11 at the mouth of Bay River, turn sharply to the left and paddle through the channel to the left of Raccoon Island.

Continue westward, staying to the northern shoreline to ensure you take the North Prong and onward to the take-out access at the Bayboro Waterfront Park. **This trail is just as beautiful if you paddle from Bayboro Waterfront Park to Merritt.**

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

Merritt (Spruill Road): From the Courthouse in Bayboro, follow NC-55 East about 5-1/4 miles to N. Trent Road. Bear right and follow this road about 600 yards to Spruill Road. Turn right and the access is about 700 feet on the right at **the site of the old bridge.** There is ample parking available on either shoulder of the road.

Bayboro Waterfront Park: Near the Courthouse in Bayboro turn left of NC-55 onto NC-304. Go about 200 yards and the Waterfront Park will be on your right. Ample parking is available.

GALE CREEK TO VANDEMERE

(Trail #4)

Time: 3 – 4 hours

Distance: 8 miles

PADDLE DESCRIPTION

Once outside of Gale Creek paddlers will be exposed to wind and waves from the south, east, and west.

Paddle to the right and out the canal next to Meekins Loop Road to enter Gale Creek. (If there is low or no water in the roadside canal, the culvert a ¼ mile up Meekins Loop Road normally has sufficient water for a safe launch.) Continue SE on Gale Creek and bear right around Permission Tree Point to where the ICW enters from the left. Continue into Bay River and bear right around Gale Creek Point. Paddle WSW along the river shore towards Bear Creek which is a nice side exploration with a several waterfront homes and some interesting tributaries. As you near Sanders Point you might consider putting to the beach on Oyster Creek for a break before continuing the final half of this paddle adventure.

Leaving Sanders Point, paddle around past Spencer Point and around Wise and Petty Points before turn NW to Box Point enroute to Darby Point. The trail ends when you paddle across to the entrance to Vandemere Creek and the ramp just beyond the fish plant.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

Gale Creek: Near the Courthouse in Bayboro turn left on NC-304 and go about 11-1/2 miles to SR-1224 (the second Meekins Loop Rd entrance). Turn right on SR-1224, park adjacent to the road and put in the canal which runs parallel to NC-304. Gale Creek is 300 feet north.

Vandemere: Near the Courthouse in Bayboro turn left of NC-55 onto NC-304. Go about 6 miles and turn right on NC-307. Proceed to the end of the road (about 1-1/2 miles) and turn left. Access is behind the fish plant.

GALE CREEK – JONES BAY LOOP

(Trail #5)

Time: 3 – 4 hours

Distance: 9-1/4 miles

PADDLE DESCRIPTION

Be watchful of wakes from power and sailboats plying the waters of the ICW.

Paddle to the right out the canal to enter Gale Creek. Continue SE on Gale Creek for about 1-1/4 miles then turn North and follow the ICW along a beautiful, tree-lined canal. At Jones Bay paddle eastward towards Lambert Creek which normally provides a sandy beach for your break. The continuation of this paddle takes you to Ditch Creek where you turn south and follow it to and through the canal at the rear and back into Gale Creek. From here it's a 2-mile westward paddle back to your starting point.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

Gale Creek: Near the Courthouse in Bayboro turn left on NC-304 and go about 11-1/2 miles to SR-1224 (the second Meekins Loop Rd entrance). Turn right on SR-1224, park adjacent to the road and put in the canal which runs parallel to NC-304. Gale Creek is 300 feet north.