



The Asheville Amblers  
 Welcome You to  
**The Port Royal, SC Walk**  
 An AVA Sanctioned Year Round Event



A peaceful walk through an old coastal town steeped in history from colonial times to the present. A long boardwalk allows great views of the port and a tower gives you a bird's eye view of the area.

**Walk Registration:**

Registration takes place online using that AVA Online Start Box, on my.ava.org. Follow the instructions provided to create a user account and sign the AVA waiver (one time). Instructions for payment are also included. Download the directions and print as needed. The POC does not provide event directions or accept alternate payment methods.

**Walk Completion and Walk Credit:**

Once you have physically completed the walk, please login to your Online Start Box account click on the "My Start Box" tab, then the "Finish Table" tab, then click on "Go to Finish Table" button for the event you have completed. Use the displayed entry form to submit the date and distance of your walk as well as select applicable AVA Special Programs to generate stamped "virtual" insert cards that you may choose to print out.

Please use either the Online Start Box (OSB) or Physical Start Box (PSB) to register and complete the event. Do NOT mix and match, for example, by registering using the OSB and then completing your event using the PSB nor signing the PSB log sheet. The sponsoring club only receives credit for an OSB participation when an OSB registration has been completed online, by entering your participation date, distances, and any special programs using the OSB.

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**Starting Point Location:**

Coming from Bluffton or Hilton Head Island, take eastbound SC-170, towards Beaufort.

After crossing the Broad River, turn right on eastbound SC-128.

After 2 miles, turn slightly right onto US-21.

After 3 miles, turn right onto Parris Ave.

After 0.8 miles, turn left onto 7th St.

Follow 7th St. as it changes to Sands Beach Rd.

Just before the boat ramp at the end of the road, the parking lot is on the right..

Coming from Charleston or Yemassee, take US-17, towards Beaufort.

At the traffic circle, exit onto southbound US-21 towards Beaufort.

After 12 miles, follow southbound US-21 as it makes a right turn onto Parris Island Gateway.

After 7 miles, turn right onto Parris Ave.

After 0.8 miles, turn left onto 7th St.

Follow 7th St. as it changes to Sands Beach Rd.

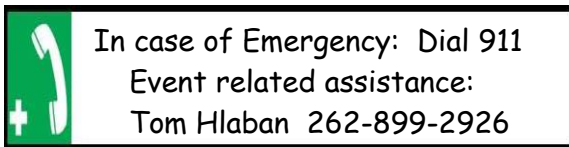
Just before the boat ramp at the end of the road, the parking lot is on the right.

(GPS: 1 Sands Beach Rd. Port Royal SC), across the boat landing road from Sands Beach (POI 1).

GPS: latitude is 32.37307 longitude -80.68846

**Restrooms:**

Port-a-potties at parking lot and along route.

**Emergency Numbers:****Walking Instructions:**

Abbreviations used:

POI - Point of Interest

These walk directions and maps may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.

**Walk Directions:****Port Royal 6 and 10 KM**

1. Exit the Parking Lot. Turn left onto Sands Beach Rd.
2. Follow Sands Beach Rd. curving left. Angle to right at fork with 6th St. No sign.
3. Turn right onto London Ave. Walk 4 blocks.
4. Turn right onto 11th St.
5. Turn left onto Richmond Ave. No street sign. Notice the small park for viewing wetlands (POI 2). Walk 3 blocks.
6. Turn right onto 14th St. Use sidewalk on right.
7. Veer left onto Old Shell Rd. No sign. Stay on sidewalk on right side. Pass El Sueno Ln., Gabriel Snipe Pl., to 16th St. **For the 6km route, jump to Direction #25.**
8. **For the 10km route**, continue on Old Shell Rd. Pass Greenway Ct., to the first Fort Frederick Circle on the right.
9. Turn right onto Fort Frederick Circle. Loop around Fort Frederick Circle, until it comes back to Old Shell Rd.
10. Turn right onto Old Shell Rd. Walk one block.
11. Turn right onto Old Fort Rd. Walk on left side.
12. Pass through entrance gate into the Fort Frederick Cultural Preserve (POI 3). Road changes from pavement to gravel. Continue back to picnic shelter.
13. Turn left at the picnic shelter to enter the park on a footpath, going over a small wooden bridge.
14. Turn right and walk through the park towards the Beaufort River, reading the historical signs.
15. Go around the tabby shell fort foundation, keeping the fort on your right.
16. Just past the fort, turn right, and enter the fort foundation through the opening near the shore.
17. Walk through the fort exiting on the other side.
18. Turn right, and return through the park, over the small bridge and back to the picnic shelter.
19. Turn right and exit the cultural preserve, continuing on Old Fort Rd., back to Old Shell Rd.
20. Turn right onto the sidewalk of Old Shell Rd. Walk, passing the guarded entrance of the Naval Hospital (POI 4) using the crosswalk. After the entrance, CAREFULLY cross Old Shell Rd. just before the Skateboard Park building (POI 5).
21. Walk past the Skateboard building, to the parking lot in front of Porter's Chapel (POI 6). Walk through the parking lot and up to the historical signs. If open, you may enter.
22. Facing out from the chapel entrance, turn right, and follow the paved paths clockwise around the edge of Naval Heritage Park. On Saturday mornings, in season, there is a farmer's market here (POI 7). Enjoy! There is a Veteran's Memorial along the side of Ribaut Rd.

23. As you loop back towards the skateboard building, turn right at the T, then pass between the skateboard building and the chapel. Turn left and CAREFULLY recross Old Shell Rd. at the same point.
24. Turn right onto the sidewalk of Old Shell Rd. Pass the entrance of the Naval Hospital using the crosswalk. No turns. Pass Stuart Towne Ln., Old Fort Rd., Fort Frederick Circle, Dawson Pl., Old Shell Ct., Fort Frederick Circle, Greenway Ct., to 16th St.
25. **6km route: turn left onto 16th St.** or **10km route: turn right onto 16th St.**
26. Follow 16th St., passing Richmond Ave to the Cypress Wetlands entrance, on your right.
27. Turn right onto the footpath into Cypress Wetlands (POI 8).
28. At the footpath fork, turn left to follow a boardwalk over the wetlands. Read the nature signs. You might see gators, turtles, and many birds here.
29. After boardwalk ends, continue on paved footpath. At the T, turn right. Stay off private land to the side of path.
30. Follow the footpath to the amphitheater deck overlooking the wetlands.
31. Climb the steps up either side to Paris Ave. 100 yards to the right is the Port Royal Fire Station (POI 9). 100 yards to the left are several brunch cafes (POI 10).
32. Cross Paris Ave. at any crosswalk.
33. Turn left onto sidewalk of Paris Ave. Walk past Paris Ave. W.
34. Turn right onto 16th St. Walk 3 long blocks.
35. At the T, turn left onto Edinburgh Ave. Walk 1 block.
36. Turn right on a footpath entering the park.
37. Turn left onto the sand/gravel roadway. The way may be uneven; pavement is planned for when this becomes an extension of the Spanish Moss bike trail (*Rails-To-Trails*) (POI 11).
38. Pass through the crossing of an unmarked road (13th St.)
39. Continue on the sand/gravel roadway until you reach the entrance of the parking lot of Fish Camp restaurant (POI 12) on the right (at unmarked 11th St.)
40. Walk through the parking lot, keeping Fish Camp restaurant on your right. Walk towards the water until you see a dock going out to the Port Royal Shrimp Boat docks (POI 13).
41. You may walk out on the fixed dock to the floating dock.
42. Return to land, and turn right onto the sidewalk at the edge of the parking lot, back to the road.

43. Turn right onto the road, where the pavement ends shortly, and it becomes a sand/gravel roadway.
44. Passing a pond on the left, find a small wooden footbridge over the ditch, and cross it. Go forward onto 9th St. There is a street sign. Walk one block.
45. Turn right onto Paris Ave. Walk past 8th to 7th St. You will pass the *Port Royal Town Hall*, with a *Town Clock* on the left.
46. Turn left towards Sands Beach.
47. Walk past London Ave., eventually curving right, to 6th St.
48. You may realize you are near the start point, but do not yet return to your vehicle! Turn sharply right on 6th St., and go back towards a gravel parking lot on left.
49. Enter the parking lot, and walk diagonally to the far corner.
50. Exit the parking lot onto a sidewalk along the side of the big building, Follow the sidewalk over a wooden bridge, to Tintersection with a boardwalk.
51. Turn left on the boardwalk, going towards an observation tower. You may climb the tower (POI 14) for views of Battery Creek and the Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot. You might see dolphins from here.
52. Continue on the boardwalk to its end at Sands Beach. Turn left to return to the parking lot at the start point.
53. Congratulations!

**We hope you enjoyed your walk. If you have not already done so, please login to the Online Start Box to "complete" your walk.**





## Points of Interest

(1) **The Sands Beach** is a small and somewhat rocky community beach on saltwater Battery Creek. Free. Note that this is not one of the wide ocean barrier beaches, such as are found at Hunting Island State Park.

(2) **The Beaufort County Open Land Trust** is SC's first and oldest land trust working to preserve open spaces, views, and natural habitats. It utilizes conservation easements, fee-simple land purchases, and land stewardship practices to preserve numerous small but critically located plots throughout the region.

(3) **The Fort Frederick Heritage Preserve** opened to the public for the first time in 2021. It is a 3-acre property owned by the SC Dept. of Natural Resources. It contains two points of historical interest. The foundation of a tabby fort built by the British colonial government between 1733 and 1735 remains, although partially washed away in the Beaufort River. And then, on January 1, 1863, crowds of formerly enslaved people ferried here, walking across a dock built over the fort to hear the first reading of the Emancipation Proclamation in the Southern States, under live oaks which still stand. Emancipation was effective immediately here. The site of former Camp Saxson is also nearby.

(4) **The Naval Hospital Beaufort** was opened in 1949 on 127 acres of land, replacing the Naval Hospital Parris Island which operated from 1891 to 1949. It is one of the few military facilities which is a complete military compound in itself, rather than a tenant of a larger command. It provides general medical, surgical, and emergency services to all Active-Duty Navy and Marine Corps personnel, as well as local dependents and retirees.

(5) **The Port Royal Skateboard Park** is a free public facility, that contains ramps, a funbox, two half-pipes, one long slope, and two bumps. Instructors are sometimes available.

(6) **Porter's Chapel**, a restored Reconstruction Era Freedmen's Chapel was moved to this location from Camp Saxson, home of the 1st South Carolina Infantry, formed of formerly enslaved citizens freed during the Civil War. This is part of Beaufort's distributed Reconstruction Era National Historical Park.

(7) **The Port Royal Farmer's Market** is open Saturdays from 9am to 12pm, rain or shine. You will find fresh, local, seasonal produce, shrimp, oysters, meat, eggs, bread, and cheese. Plants, ferns, camellias, azaleas, citrus trees, and beautify fresh-cut flower bouquets. Check out prepared food vendors as well, including local specialties such as she-crab soup and crab cakes

(8) **The Port Royal Cypress Wetlands and Rookery** was renovated in 2020 to set an appropriate water level and remove excess floating islands and vegetation, to optimize it as an accessible habitat for herons, hawks, eagles, owls, falcons, geese, ducks, and other migratory waterfowl. In addition, keep your eyes open for gators, turtles, and snakes. Dogs must be on leash. Everyone must stay on the paths.

(9) **Port Royal Fire Station.** Port Royal and Beaufort combined fire departments in 1991. This is Station 3.

(10) **Olde School House and Corner Perk.** These local cafes feature breakfasts and lunches. The caboose behind Corner Perk once housed a coffee shop, but is now closed. You can still get Pluff Mud coffee at Corner Perk.

(11) **The Spanish Moss Bike Trail** serves both walkers and cyclists on its ten miles paved route along the former Magnolia Rail Line through Beaufort, that once connected the Port of Port Royal to the mainland rail network. An extension of the bike path, crossing Ribaut Rd, and running to the former Port is planned. You are walking on the right-of-way.

(12) **Shelling Aleworks and Fish Camp Restaurant on 11<sup>th</sup> St.** Fish Camp features lunches and dinners, with a view of sunsets and the Port Royal Marina. Ask about local seafood specials. Shelling Aleworks is a local craft brewery and pub.

(13) **The Port Royal Shrimp Boat docks** are a remaining component of the Port of Port Royal. It is currently operated by the Town of Port Royal. There may be shrimp boats present at the time of your walk.

(14) **The Port Royal Observation Tower** has four stories from which to look out over Battery Creek at Paris Island, where the Marine Corps Recruit Depot trains 20,000 men and women recruits every year, or back over the salt marsh towards the Town of PortRoyal and City of Beaufort. Watch for dolphins, pelicans, other coastal birds, and fiddler crabs.

<b>AVA SPECIAL PROGRAMS</b>					
<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Years</b>	<b>10K</b>	<b>5K</b>	<b>__ K</b>	<b>Information</b>
Walking with America’s Veterans	(2021 – 2027)				
Rails-To-Trails	(2022 – 2025)				
Town Halls/City Halls	(2022 - 2024)				
<b>AVA NATIONAL PROGRAMS</b>					
<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Years</b>	<b>10K</b>	<b>5K</b>	<b>__ K</b>	<b>Information</b>
50 States / 51 Capitals	(no end date)				
Walk the USA (A To Z)	(no end date)				

**Ambler Lowcountry Walks**

- Beaufort
- Bluffton
- Charleston Historic District
- Charleston Ravenel Bridge
- Hilton Head
- Magnolia Plantation
- Pinckney Island
- Port Royal