**Lake Okeechobee**

Designated as a segment of the Florida National Scenic Trail, this 210-mile portion circles Lake Okeechobee. The trail runs along the 36-mile Herbert Hoover Dike, which surrounds the lake to provide flood protection. Trail users can see views ranging from scenic landscapes to working agricultural landscapes. Portions of the trail run near communities that are at the heart of agriculture, such as Belle Glade and Clewiston.

The area offers opportunities for viewing wildlife, particularly in the fall and winter, when birds such as herons, egrets, and pelicans are abundant. Several segments of the trail have become popular with birders, and some areas are known for their distinctive wildlife.
LAKE OKEECHOBEE
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FROM THE TENDER
- Coast Guard boating regulations and Florida Boat Safety Laws apply in these waters.
- When approaching a lock, stop the boat and round the horn, located at the end of the piling.
- When the locktender gives the “go ahead” or the signal turns green, proceed into the lock. To avoid suction current, position the bow to the side wall from which you are entering.
- Hold the safety lines at the head and stern to keep from swinging around. Do not tie the ropes to the boat.
- While in the lock, cut off the motor. Do not smoke or refuel.
- Wait until signaled by the locktender before starting the motor and leaving the lock.
- Exiting boats have the right-of-way. It is against the law to enter/leave a lock while the gates are in motion.
- Keep speed down to 5 mph and use caution when entering or leaving a lock. No wake.

LOCK HOURS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 1 - Apr. 30</td>
<td>5:30 am - 9:00 pm</td>
<td>2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 1 - Sept. 30</td>
<td>5:30 am - 9:00 pm</td>
<td>2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 1 - Nov. 30</td>
<td>5:30 am - 9:00 pm</td>
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</tbody>
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For current information on water depth, lockages and navigational hazards, contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at any of these numbers:

- Jacksonville District Office: 904-303-3187
- South Florida Operations Office: 863-963-6263
- St. Lucie Lock: 773-307-3089
- Pahokee Lock: 850-686-9989
- Okeechobee Lock: 863-679-0171
- WP Franklin Lock: 239-654-5051

The lake is noted for its houndfish fishing. It has long supported a commercial fishing industry and is the site of many tournaments for sport fishing. The lake is also a perfect place for a leisurely sail or canoe, with a choice of protected spots for a floating picnic, or a few hours of quiet contemplation.

Beyond its obvious opportunities for outdoor recreation, Lake Okeechobee serves a greater purpose for all of South Florida. As the state’s population grows, so does the lake’s importance as a water resource.

big water
boating
fishing
Several segments of the trail have been designated as a segment of the Florida National Scenic Trail, thus providing opportunities for recreation and exploration. The trail runs along the 110-mile portion circles Lake Okeechobee. The trail runs through the lake’s vast expanse of wetlands, hardwood hammocks, and sawgrass prairies. It offers visitors a chance to see a wide variety of wildlife, including alligators, deer, and birds.

The trail is open to the public, and is maintained by the South Florida Water Management District. It is a popular destination for hikers, cyclists, and equestrians. The trail is a great way to experience the natural beauty of southern Florida, and is a perfect place for a day of exploring and adventure.

For more information on the trail, contact the South Florida Water Management District at 561-793-2111. They can provide information on trail conditions, access points, and nearby amenities. This is a great place to start planning your next outdoor adventure.
WATERWAY DISTANCES

The lake is approximately 37 miles long by 30 miles wide. Over 730 square miles with an average depth of only 10 feet. To fishermen nationwide, it’s renowned for the number of bass it contains per acre and that it also produces more bass over 7 pounds than any lake in Florida and the United States.