

→ South Carolina



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It's Not a Swamp

On first glance, Congaree National Park may look like a swamp, but in fact, it's the largest remnant of old-growth floodplain forest on the continent. A lack of standing water for most of the year keeps the park from earning the swamp stamp. Towering trees and draping Spanish moss greet groups, along with a bustling wildlife, including bobcats, deer, and woodpeckers. Because of its rich biodiversity, the park has been designated a national natural landmark, a globally important bird area, and an international biosphere reserve. Groups can also enjoy guided walks and presentations, or explore the exhibit area within the Harry Hampton Visitor Center. About a 30-minute drive from Columbia, the park is open year-round.

* **Congaree National Park** | Hopkins | (803) 647-3971
www.nps.gov/cong/index.htm