A Visitor’s Guide to Accessing Georgia’s Coastal Resources

Beaches & Barrier Islands

Cultural & Historic Sites

Rivers & Waterways

Wildlife Viewing & Walking Trails
A Visitor’s Guide to Accessing Georgia’s Coastal Resources
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table of contents

Acknowledgements ............................................................ 2
Map of Georgia Coastal Counties and the Barrier Islands ............... 5
Foreword ............................................................................. 6
1. Beaches and Barrier Islands .......................................... 7
   a. Chatham County ...................................................... 9
      i. Tybee Island ................................................... 9
      ii. Little Tybee Island .......................................... 14
      iii. Skidaway Island ............................................. 14
      iv. Wassaw Island ................................................. 15
      v. Ossabaw Island ................................................ 16
   b. Liberty County ....................................................... 17
      i. St. Catherines Island ...................................... 17
   c. McIntosh County .................................................. 17
      i. Blackbeard Island .......................................... 17
      ii. Sapelo Island ................................................ 18
   d. Glynn County ....................................................... 19
      i. St. Simons Island ........................................... 19
      ii. Little St. Simons Island and Sea Island .......... 19
      iii. Jekyll Island ................................................ 25
   e. Camden County .................................................... 28
      i. Cumberland Island ......................................... 28

2. Wildlife Viewing and Walking Trails ................................ 30
   a. Chatham County .................................................... 31
   b. Effingham County ................................................. 34
   c. Bryan County ....................................................... 34
   d. Liberty County ..................................................... 36
   e. Long County ......................................................... 37
   f. McIntosh County .................................................. 37
   g. Wayne County ...................................................... 40
   h. Glynn County ....................................................... 40
   i. Brantley County ................................................... 44
   j. Camden County .................................................... 45
   k. Charlton County ................................................... 46
3. Cultural and Historic Sites ............................................. 50
   a. Chatham County ........................................... 51
   b. Effingham County .......................................... 57
   c. Bryan County .................................................. 58
   d. Liberty County ............................................. 60
   e. Long County .................................................. 63
   f. McIntosh County .......................................... 64
   g. Wayne County .................................................. 66
   h. Glynn County ................................................. 66
   i. Brantley County ............................................. 73
   j. Camden County ............................................... 74
   k. Charlton County ............................................. 76

4. Rivers and Waterways .................................................. 77
   a. Chatham County ........................................... 77
   b. Effingham County .......................................... 84
   c. Bryan County .................................................. 85
   d. Liberty County ............................................. 88
   e. Long County .................................................. 89
   f. McIntosh County .......................................... 90
   g. Wayne County .................................................. 95
   h. Glynn County ................................................. 97
   i. Brantley County ............................................. 105
   j. Camden County ............................................... 107
   k. Charlton County ............................................. 112

Additional Visitor Information ........................................... 114
Map of Georgia’s Eleven Coastal Counties and the Barrier Islands

Map by Travis Douce, University of Georgia Marine Extension Service
The coast of Georgia is a trove of natural and cultural treasures. Here, a visitor may stand alone on a secluded white sand beach; observe a hundred species of migrating birds; see alligators sunbathing on the “land of trembling earth”; cast for dozens of sport fish species; walk the floors of J. P. Morgan’s “cottage”; visit the site of the founding of the state; stand upon the parapet of a fort from the war that would have dissolved the Union; or speak with a proud descendent of slavery, still living on the plantation lands of her forebears. Thousands of visitors seeking such experiences come to the coast every year, and in so doing boost the state economy by more than $2 billion. Many of coastal Georgia’s natural wonders are readily accessible by automobile, yet an equal number are remote and secluded. This guide provides information about the many natural attractions and cultural sites to be found in coastal Georgia, and, most importantly, is designed to direct visitors on how to access even the most difficult of these locations.

Though some areas may be remote, it is that remoteness that helps preserve their natural state. Most, however, are easily accessible. The authors have provided directions and processes for reaching destinations either on one’s own or by means of organized tours. All of Georgia’s beaches and many of its natural and cultural resources are located on offshore barrier islands. Most of those islands are accessible only by boat. Traveling to offshore barrier islands in a private boat can be difficult even for the most experienced coastal boater and may be dangerous for persons unfamiliar with navigating in these waters. For that reason, the authors recommend that visitors take advantage of organized access opportunities whenever possible and do not take chances when safety is an issue.

Georgia’s coast consists of six ocean facing counties: Chatham, Bryan, Liberty, McIntosh, Glynn and Camden. Because tidal influence extends far up-river, five second-tier counties are also considered coastal in nature. Those counties are: Effingham, Long, Wayne, Brantley and Charlton. This Guide provides maps of the coastal counties, the Colonial Coast Birding Trail and the Beach Water Quality Testing Locations. Additionally, GPS coordinates for most boat-launching sites are provided to aid the navigation of anglers and other boaters. The authors of this guide have attempted to include the primary access sites in all eleven coastal counties. Those access opportunities are enormous, so some unintentional omissions may well have occurred. If the reader discovers such an oversight, please notify the Coastal Management Program at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources’ Coastal Resources Division so that the site may be included in subsequent printings of this publication. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this Guide is up-to-date at the time of publication; however, fees, hours of operation, and other items are subject to change. Remember too, that when visiting one of these locations, whether a historical or cultural resource site or a natural habitat, please leave it as you found it. Enjoy!
Beaches and Barrier Islands

Introduction

The Georgia coastline stretches for approximately 100 linear miles from the Savannah River Sound in the north to the St. Marys River Sound in the south. Georgia’s coast has eight major, and several smaller, “barrier islands” separated from the mainland by expansive salt marshes laced with meandering rivers and tributaries. Barrier islands derive their name from the fact that they serve as a protective barrier for the fragile coastline sheltering it from damaging ocean waves and storms. Just how and why the barrier islands formed is not completely understood. The current theory is that the islands were created about 18,000 years ago when the last Ice Age ended. As the glaciers melted and receded, the sea levels began to rise and flooded the areas behind existing dune ridges. The rising waters carried sediments from those beach ridges and deposited them along shallow areas just off the new coastline. Waves and currents continued to bring in sediments that built up to form the barrier islands. In addition, rivers washed sediments from the mainland that settled behind the islands. The Georgia barrier island system is the most undisturbed system of large barrier islands in the nation. Ten of the barrier islands are in public ownership, and most are designated as wildlife management areas, heritage preserves and undeveloped recreational areas. With the exception of Jekyll Island, the publicly owned barrier islands are not connected to the mainland by causeways.

Georgia’s beaches belong to the state’s citizens and are open to the public up to the high tide line. However, accessing many beaches may be difficult. All of the beaches in Georgia are located on the seaward side of the barrier islands, and of the state’s 90 miles of beaches, only about 19 miles are located on islands connected to the mainland by public road. These islands are Tybee, St. Simons and Jekyll. The remaining beaches must be reached by ferry or private boat, and boaters should exercise extreme caution to avoid navigational dangers. Further, the rise and fall of Georgia’s tidewaters are tremendous. Georgia’s tidal amplitude ranges from seven to nine linear feet twice daily. A boat beached at high tide will be many yards from the water in a matter of hours.

To protect swimmers from motorized boats, Georgia has established Boating Safety Zones along the most popular swimming beaches. It is unlawful to operate a powerboat between May 1st and September 30th within the area of:

- Tybee Island Beach, for a distance of 1,000 feet seaward from the high-water mark on Tybee Island beach from the north end to the south end of the beach;
- St. Simons Island, for a distance of 1,000 feet seaward from the high-water mark from the north end to the south end of the island;
- Jekyll Island, for a distance of 1,000 feet seaward from the high watermark on Jekyll beach from the north end of the island to the south end;
- Sea Island, for a distance of 1,000 feet seaward from the high water mark from the north end to the south end of Sea Island.
Local ordinances regarding dogs on the beach vary widely between jurisdictions and are subject to change. Most municipalities require that dogs be kept off the beach during certain hours of the day and/or certain times of the year. Some only allow dogs on specific beaches and others have banned dogs altogether. All beaches require that your dog remain on a leash. Violators risk being fined, so it is best to check local laws before bringing along your dog. As of the writing of this Guide, the ordinances pertaining to Georgia’s most popular public beaches are:

- **Tybee Island** – Dogs are not permitted on the beach at any time.
- **St. Simons Island** – Leashed dogs are permitted north of 1st Street and west of Mallery Street. Dogs are not permitted between 1st Street and Mallery Street from 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Memorial Day through Labor Day.
- **Jekyll Island** – Leashed dogs are permitted on the beach.

If you do take your dog along, remember that dog waste on the beach is not only unpleasant for beachgoers, but it also poses a very real health threat to swimmers and other dogs. Fecal coliform bacteria in seawater, resulting from dog waste on the beach, can make people and animals very ill. In some cases, these bacteria can reach levels that require the local Health Department to issue a swimmers’ health advisory. To ensure that your dog is not contributing to this problem, always clean up your dog’s waste, secure it in a plastic bag and deposit it in an appropriate trash receptacle away from the beach.

To ensure swimmer safety, Tybee Island, St. Simons Island and Jekyll Island beach waters are monitored weekly at numerous locations to determine bacterial levels. Other popular but less widely used swimming areas are monitored monthly. This monitoring is a cooperative project undertaken by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources’ Coastal Resources Division and the Georgia Department of Human Resources’ Division of Public Health. The testing results are posted on the Coastal Resources Division website (www.CoastalGaDNR.org) under the quick link for “Beach Swimming Advisory Status”. In addition, Beach Water Quality Notifications are posted on signs at access points to most public beach areas. The notification signs give the date...

*A Beach Water Quality Notification Sign.*

Photo by Paul Christian, UGA Marine Extension Service
of the most recent test and advise whether or not the bacterial levels should cause concern to swimmers. If high levels of bacteria are discovered when the beach water is tested, then a public advisory is posted. An advisory indicates that swimmers are at an increased risk of developing an illness from being in contact with the water. An advisory does not close the beach to swimming, but rather recommends that swimmers choose another portion of the beach where no such advisory exists. This Guide indicates the location of the notification signs at beach access points on Tybee Island beach, St. Simons Island beach and Jekyll Island beach.

The following chapter contains a description of Georgia’s principal barrier islands and beaches. Driving and walking directions to the beach access points on Tybee, St. Simons and Jekyll are included. Remember that Georgia’s beaches and dunes are extremely fragile and valuable natural habitats. Please do not walk on the dunes, pick the vegetation or disturb the birds, turtles or other wildlife.

**Chatham County**

**Tybee Island**

Tybee Island is Georgia’s northernmost barrier island. It is located just 20 minutes east of Savannah’s Historic District and is accessible via I-95 (north/south) or I-16 (east/west). Tybee Island has almost 5 miles of beaches that are easily accessible by dune crosswalk structures and paths. Many options exist for lodging and dining on the island. On Tybee’s south end there is a fishing pier featuring live music and special events during the spring and summer. Tybee Island is also home to Georgia’s oldest and tallest lighthouse. Towering 154 feet above the coastline, the lighthouse is open for tours (for directions and detailed information please see the Tybee Island Light Station and Museum in the Cultural and Historic Sites section).

Beachfront parking is available at two large, city-owned lots:

- **North Beach Parking Lot:** A beachfront lot located directly across from Tybee Island Lighthouse and behind Fort Screven (please see directions below). Pay via a Pay & Display meter system.
- **South Beach Parking Lot:** A beachfront lot adjacent to the main beach business district and the pier. The lot runs parallel to the beach from 14th Street to 18th Street (please see directions below). Pay via a Pay & Display meter system.

**Parking Passes:** Parking passes can be purchased at the Pay & Display machines. The machines accept either coins or credit card (Visa or Master Card), but do not accept bills. Parking costs $1.50/hour for a maximum of 12 hours. Multi-day passes may be purchased for a maximum of three days by credit card only. Metered street parking is also available throughout the island. Hourly rates vary from $0.50 to $1.00. Note that parking meters will accept only quarters. All beachgoers parking in the city-owned lots, on side streets or on Butler Avenue must pay for parking.
**Directions to Tybee Island:** Take I-95 to I-16 East. Follow I-16 to the end and merge onto Martin Luther King Boulevard. Turn right onto E. Liberty Street and left onto E. Broad Street. Turn right onto E. President Street (Islands Expressway). Keep left over the overpass to merge onto U.S. Hwy 80 East and follow the highway to Tybee Island. On the island, U.S. Hwy 80 becomes Butler Avenue. The Visitor Information Center is located on the right at the first traffic signal (on the corner of Butler Avenue and South Campbell Avenue). Butler Avenue traverses Tybee Island parallel to the ocean front beach; therefore, most beach access directions begin from Butler Avenue.

**Polk Street Beach Access, Tybee Island**
This northernmost public beach access site is located near the entrance to the Savannah River and fronts the sound rather than the ocean. The beach offers views of Cockspur Island and Ft. Pulaski. Beachgoers can also watch international ships as they travel to and from the Port of Savannah. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources uses this location as one of five beach water quality sampling sites on Tybee Island.

**Directions:** Approximately 0.5 miles after arriving on Tybee Island via U.S. Hwy 80, turn left on Polk Avenue and follow to the end.

**North Beach Parking Lot and Public Beach Access, Tybee Island**
The North Beach area of Tybee Island is located near the entrance to the Savannah River and is highlighted by the imposing Fort Screven. This beach is a popular spot for bird watching, dolphin watching and searching for seashells. Visitors must pay via a Pay & Display meter system to park in this large parking area. There are three entrances to the beach; all have handicapped accessible ramps to the beach, and the southern most entrance has a beach accessible surface (beach mat). There are restrooms, outdoor showers, Beach Water Quality Notification signs, dog litterbags for removing pet waste, aluminum can recycling stations and garbage cans.

**Directions:** From Butler Avenue turn left onto N. Campbell Avenue and turn left again when it dead ends into Van Horne Drive. After a half block, turn right onto Meddin Street. Turn right immediately across from the Tybee Island Lighthouse to reach the beachfront lot behind Fort Screven.
Eastgate / 2nd Avenue Beach Access, Tybee Island
This public beach access has a Beach Water Quality Notification sign, ample Pay & Display parking, dog litter bags for removing pet waste, handicapped accessible parking spaces along with a ramp to the beach and a beach accessible surface (beach mat). Please observe the swimming advisory notices in the area.

Directions: From Butler Avenue turn left onto 2nd Avenue and follow to the dune crossover structure.

2nd Street Beach Access, Tybee Island
This public beach access point has a Beach Water Quality Notification sign, dog litter bags for removing pet waste, trashcan and coin metered parking.

Directions: From Butler Avenue turn left onto 2nd Street and follow to the end.

3rd Street Beach Access, Tybee Island
This public beach access point has a Beach Water Quality Notification sign, dog litter bags for removing pet waste, trashcan and Pay & Display parking.

Directions: From Butler Avenue turn left onto 3rd Street and follow to the end.

Center Street Beach Access, Tybee Island
This public beach access point has a Beach Water Quality Notification sign, dog litter bags for removing pet waste, trashcan and Pay & Display parking.

Directions: From Butler Avenue turn left onto Center Street and follow to the end.

6th Street Beach Access, Tybee Island
This public beach access point has a Beach Water Quality Notification sign, outdoor shower, dog litter bags for removing pet waste, trashcan, a dune crossover structure and Pay & Display parking.

Directions: From Butler Avenue turn left onto 6th Street and follow to the end.

7th Street Beach Access, Tybee Island
This public beach access point has an outdoor shower, dog litterbags for removing pet waste, trashcan, a dune crossover structure and Pay & Display parking.

Directions: From Butler Avenue turn left onto 7th Street and follow to the end.

8th Street Beach Access, Tybee Island
This public beach access point has an outdoor shower, dog litterbags for removing pet waste, trashcan, a dune crossover structure, a beach accessible surface (beach mat) and Pay & Display parking with a reserved handicapped accessible parking space

Directions: From Butler Avenue turn left onto 8th Street and follow to the end.
9th Street Beach Access, Tybee Island
This public beach access point has a Beach Water Quality Notification sign, an outdoor shower, dog litter bags for removing pet waste, a dune crossover structure and Pay & Display parking.

Directions: From Butler Avenue turn left onto 9th Street and follow to the end.

10th Street Beach Access, Tybee Island
This public beach access point has a Beach Water Quality Notification sign, an outdoor shower, dog litter bags for removing pet waste, a dune crossover structure and Pay & Display parking.

Directions: From Butler Avenue turn left onto 10th Street and follow to the end.

11th Street Beach Access, Tybee Island
This public beach access point has a Beach Water Quality Notification sign, an outdoor shower, dog litter bags for removing pet waste, a trashcan, a dune crossover structure and Pay & Display parking.

Directions: From Butler Avenue turn left onto 11th Street and follow to the end.

12th Street Beach Access, Tybee Island
This public beach access point has a Beach Water Quality Notification sign, outdoor showers, dog litter bags for removing pet waste, a dune crossover structure and only three metered parking spaces.

Directions: From Butler Avenue turn left onto 12th Street and follow to the end.

13th Street Beach Access, Tybee Island
This public beach access point has an outdoor shower, dog litter bags for removing pet waste, a dune crossover structure and Pay & Display parking.

Directions: From Butler Avenue turn left onto 13th Street and follow to the end.

South Beach Parking Lot and Public Beach Access, Tybee Island
This portion of the Tybee Beach is the most popular. It is located in Tybee Island’s business district and is within walking distance of many of the island’s hotels, restaurants, bars and shops. The Tybee Pier and Pavilion are located at this site, along with public restrooms. This section of the beach is open to surfers. Visitors must pay via a Pay & Display meter system to park in this large parking area which runs parallel to the beach from 14th Street to 18th Street.

- The 14th Street Beach Access area has four beach access points and all have Beach Water Quality Notification signs. The center-two access points have dune crossover structures and reserved handicapped parking spaces. Recycling bins and outdoor showers are available. Restrooms are located near the Tybee Pier.
- The 15th Street Beach Access area has a Beach Water Quality Notification sign and a dune crossover structure.
- The **Tybrisa and 17th Street Beach Access** areas have Beach Water Quality Notification signs, dog litter bags for removing pet waste and dune crossover structures.
- The **18th Street Beach Access** area has a Beach Water Quality Notification sign, outdoor showers, a portable toilet, reserved parking for the handicapped and a handicapped accessible dune crossover structure with a beach accessible surface (beach mat).

**Directions:** From Butler Avenue turn left onto 14th Street and follow to the parking lot. Visitors may drive through the parking lot to the subsequent access points or drive along Butler Avenue and turn left at 15th, Tybrisa, 17th or 18th Streets and then continue straight to the parking lot.

**19th Street Beach Access, Tybee Island**
This public beach access point has a Beach Water Quality Notification sign, an outdoor shower, dog litter bags for removing pet waste, a dune crossover structure and Pay & Display parking.

**Directions:** From Butler Avenue turn left at 19th Street which is a gravel road at the extreme south end of the island. Two small parking lots are located at this site. The beach is a short walk from either parking lot.

**Chatham Avenue Beach Access, Tybee Island**
This public beach access point has a Beach Water Quality Notification sign, but no facilities. Pay & Display parking is available at the adjacent lot. The wooden crossover structure gives access to the Back River Beach which is on the Tybee Creek Inlet side of the island. This small beach has low waves and offers a view of Little Tybee Island just across creek. Little Tybee Island is actually larger than Tybee Island.

**Directions:** Follow Butler Avenue to the extreme south end of the island. At the end of Butler Avenue turn right onto Chatham Avenue, then turn right again into the Chatham Avenue Parking Lot. The beach is a short walk from the parking lot.

**Inlet Avenue Beach Access, Tybee Island**
This location gives access to the Back River Beach which is on the Tybee Creek Inlet side of the island and is used primarily as a launch site for small sail boats. No facilities exist at this site, and the access route to the beach is actually a footpath across the dune.

**Directions:** Follow Butler Avenue to the extreme south end of the island. At the end of Butler Avenue turn right onto Chatham Avenue. Proceed approximately 0.25 miles to Inlet Avenue and turn left.

**Fisherman’s Walk Beach Access, Tybee Island**
This public beach access point on the Tybee Creek Inlet is adjacent to the Back River Fishing Pier. The site has a Beach Water Quality Notification sign, an outdoor shower and ADA compliant restroom facilities.
**Directions:** Follow Butler Avenue to the extreme south end of the island. At the end of Butler Avenue turn right onto Chatham Avenue. Proceed approximately 0.50 miles to Inlet Avenue and turn left. Park at the Fishing Pier lot and walk a short distance to the beach access.

**Ally #3 Beach Access, Tybee Island**
This public beach access point on the Tybee Creek Inlet has no facilities.

**Directions:** Follow Butler Avenue to the extreme south end of the island. At the end of Butler Avenue turn right onto Chatham Avenue. Proceed approximately 0.75 miles to Ally # 3 and turn left. The alley is marked, so watch for the signs.

**Little Tybee Island**
Little Tybee is owned by the State of Georgia and managed by the Department of Natural Resources as a Heritage Preserve to “protect, conserve, and preserve the natural and cultural resources of the Island for the benefit of present and future generations.” Little Tybee is accessible by boat and open to the public for day-use only.

**Skidaway Island**
Skidaway Island is an interior barrier island fronted by Wassaw Island, and therefore does not possess a beach. The 6,300-acre island is defined to the north and south by two rivers, the Wilmington and the Vernon, respectively. The border is defined to the west by the Skidaway Narrows and to the east by both the Romerly Marsh and Wassaw Island. Skidaway Island is home to the University of Georgia’s Marine Education Center & Aquarium, which exhibits Georgia’s native fish species, and to the world-renowned Skidaway Institute of Oceanography. The current site of these two institutions was once Modena Plantation. Modena was established in the 1700’s by John Milledge, whose son, John Jr., was a Georgia statesman and founder of the University of Georgia (then called Franklin College). The property changed hands more than 16 times before Dorothy Roebling donated the land in 1967 for the creation of an oceanographic research center.

Visitors to Skidaway may also enjoy exploring scenic Skidaway Island State Park. The park’s land was donated by Union Camp, originally called Union Bag and Paper Corporation, who was one of the many northern interests that gained control of Skidaway during the decades following the Civil War. By the 1960’s, Union Camp sought to develop residential property on Skidaway, but the island lacked a bridge. In exchange for Union Camp’s donation of 500 acres, which was to become Skidaway Island State Park, the state of Georgia agreed to build a bridge to the island. The bridge was built in 1971, and Union Camp subsequently developed The Landings, a gated community with six 18-hole golf courses.

**Tours of the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography**
For those interested in learning more about oceanographic research, walking tours of the Skidaway Institute campus, labs and the 92 foot research vessel the R/V Savannah (when in port) are available. Please call (912) 598-2400 for details and reservations.
The UGA Marine Education Center & Aquarium

Phone: (912) 598-FISH

Admission:
- Adults (13 and older) $4.00
- Seniors, Children (ages 3 – 12) $2.00

Hours:
- Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Saturday 12:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Directions: From I-95 take I-16 East towards Savannah. Take Exit 164A onto the Lynes Parkway (I-516) East. The parkway will become Derenne Avenue. Merge onto Truman Parkway South and continue until it ends at Whitfield Avenue and turn left. This road becomes the Diamond Causeway. Cross the drawbridge over the Skidaway River. Continue past Skidaway Island State Park and through the traffic light. At the four-way stop, turn left onto McWhorter Drive. Continue for approximately 4.1 miles and turn left onto Ocean Science Circle. Parking is free, and spaces reserved for the handicapped are available in front of the building.

Wassaw Island

Wassaw Island is located approximately 14 miles south of Savannah. With its incredible diversity of animal species and its virgin stands of oak, pine and cedar trees, Wassaw is touted as the most unspoiled of Georgia’s barrier islands. Just after the Civil War, a wealthy northern family purchased Wassaw Island, and it remained in their possession for approximately 100 years. In 1969, the Nature Conservancy purchased the island from the family and subsequently sold it to the U.S. Department of the Interior to be maintained as a wildlife refuge. Today, Wassaw Island is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the Savannah Coastal Refuge System. The primary objectives of the refuge are to maintain and enhance habitat for threatened and endangered species (such as wood storks, loggerhead sea turtles and other resident and migratory wildlife) and to protect and preserve this unique barrier island.

The Wassaw National Wildlife Refuge is accessible only by private boat or charters from local marinas. The 2,500 acre island offers 20 miles of unpaved roadways and seven miles of sand beach that provide excellent wildlife viewing for sun seekers, hikers and bicyclers. The Wassaw beach provides ideal nesting habitat for endangered loggerhead sea turtles and a feeding ground for numerous species of shorebirds. The island also contains rookeries for egrets and herons. Bird watching on Wassaw is especially enjoyable during the spring and fall migrations.

Guided interpretive tours of Wassaw Island can be arranged through selected private vendors with a special-use permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The following vendors hold permits to conduct tours on Wassaw:

Non-profit:
- Wilderness Southeast (912) 897-5108
Ossabaw Island
Ossabaw Island is the third largest of Georgia’s Sea Islands and lies about 20 miles south of Savannah. The island encompasses over 16,000 acres of tidal marshes and 9,000 acres of high ground. One river and many ponds, saltwater creeks, sloughs, inlets and beaches make the high ground of Ossabaw a complex of small islands. Broad, flat ridges and shallow depressions comprise the western part of Ossabaw, while steep, parallel dune ridges mark the eastern part.

After passing through many private owners, the State of Georgia acquired Ossabaw in 1978 through the efforts of Eleanor Torrey West and a gift/sale agreement from the Torrey family. At the time of the sale, it was stated under an Executive Order by Governor George Busbee “that Ossabaw Island be dedicated as a Heritage Preserve to protect, conserve, and preserve the natural and cultural resources of this Island for the benefit of present and future generations, and that Ossabaw Island shall only be used for natural, scientific, and cultural study, research and education; and environmentally sound preservation, conservation, and management of the Island’s ecosystem, under conditions carefully monitored and controlled by the Department of Natural Resources.”

Today, the Game Management Section of the Department of Natural Resources’ Wildlife Resources Division manages Ossabaw Island. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has entered into a Use Agreement with The Ossabaw Island Foundation, which is a Savannah-based non-profit organization that has the exclusive right to use certain areas on the north end and non-exclusive rights to access other areas of the island. The Ossabaw Island Foundation and DNR work cooperatively to manage public access to Ossabaw and to provide educational programs that range from day excursions for students to extensive field trips for colleges, high schools and other educational organizations.

The DNR also manages seasonal, public, deer and feral hog hunts for population control. The feral hogs of Ossabaw Island are descendants of Spanish pigs brought to the New World over 400 years ago. While most feral pigs eventually mixed with domestic pigs, the Ossabaw Island animals are an exception. Having remained a distinct and isolated population, the feral pigs on Ossabaw Island reflect the pricked ears, heavy coats and long snouts of their Spanish ancestors. Ossabaw’s 13 miles of undeveloped beaches are open to the public up to the high tide line. The island is accessible only by boat.
Liberty County

St. Catherine’s Island
This 10-mile long barrier island of 14,000 acres is owned and managed by the St. Catherine’s Island Foundation. Registered as a National Historic Landmark in 1970, St. Catherine’s was once the hunting grounds of the coastal Guale Indians and the site of a Spanish Mission named Santa Catalina de Guale. Button Gwinnett, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, established a plantation on the island, and after the Civil War a black separatist movement took root there. As the years passed, St. Catherine’s, like many of coastal Georgia’s barrier islands, saw a progression of owners who used it primarily as a hunting preserve until it was conveyed to its present custodian. The beach on St. Catherine’s is approximately eleven miles long and is open to the public to the high-tide line. The island is accessible only by boat.

McIntosh County

Blackbeard Island National Wildlife Refuge
Though Blackbeard Island was named for a notorious pirate who often entered battles with lit pieces of hemp rope woven into his beard, there is no proof that the island’s namesake ever visited or hid his treasure there. The Navy Department purchased Blackbeard Island at public auction in 1800 for the island’s stores of live oak timber used in shipbuilding. From 1880 to 1912, all ships arriving to points along the coast from Savannah to St. Augustine, Florida were required to stop at Blackbeard Island for disinfection and quarantine for yellow fever. A hurricane and tidal wave destroyed most of the hospital and quarters of the yellow fever station in 1898, though the brick crematorium remains at the northwestern end of the island. The 5,618 acre island became Blackbeard Island National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in 1940, and 3,000 of these acres were designated as National Wilderness in 1975.

Blackbeard Island NWR is one of seven refuges in the 100-mile chain of national wildlife refuges that spans from Pinckney Island, South Carolina to Wolf Island, Georgia. The main objective of the refuge is to provide wintering habitat and protection for migratory birds. Birding is excellent, especially in winter when peak numbers of waterfowl utilize the freshwater/brackish habitat in the 700 acres of impoundments. With nine miles of beach and 15 miles of nature trails, a variety of recreational opportunities exist on the island such as fishing, biking, kayaking, archery hunting, beachcombing and picnicking. Saltwater creeks running through the refuge are open to fishing throughout the year. A subspecies of deer, Blackbeard Island deer (*Odocoileus virginianus nigribarbis*), are found only on this island. Camping, fires, pets and firearms are strictly prohibited. The island is only accessible by boat, and no facilities exist other than a federal dock and an exhibit shelter with a map of the island.

**Phone:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Savannah Coastal Refuges (912) 652-4415

**Directions:** Shellman’s Fish Camp on the Barbour River charters boats out to the island. For directions and detailed information, please see Shellman’s Fish Camp in the *Rivers and Waterways* section.
Sapelo Island
This fourth largest of Georgia’s barrier islands is accessible by a thirty-minute ferry ride departing from Meridian (nine miles north of Darien). The 5.5 mile beach is open to the public, but the majority of the island is controlled by four separate entities: the University of Georgia Marine Institute, the Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve, the R. J. Reynolds Wildlife Refuge and the Hog Hammock community.

To experience Sapelo Island, visitors may purchase tickets at the Visitor Center that include the ferry trip, and a guided tour of Sapelo’s tabby ruins, historic mansions and/or the recently restored lighthouse. Tours are punctuated by spellbinding tales of Guale Indians, Spanish missionaries, English pirates, sea island cotton plantations and millionaires’ retreats. Pioneer camping or bedrooms in the Reynolds Mansion can be reserved for groups of 15 persons or greater. Limited commercial lodging is available in Hog Hammock, a private community of some 75 residents. Hog Hammock is a village comprised of descendents of the 400 freedmen who once worked Thomas Spalding’s plantation on Sapelo Island. This village is the last concentration of African Americans on the Georgia coast who belong to the Gullah/Geechee language and cultural group and speak the melodic dialect of their forebears. Gullah food, music, crafts, storytelling and other traditions exhibit strong influences from West and Central African cultures. Residents of Hog Hammock continue the community traditions of over 200 years of life on Sapelo, thereby maintaining cultural ties to the history of the island and the Georgia tidewater region.

Tours:
- Wednesday 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. mansion & island
- Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. lighthouse & island
- Fridays (June 1 – Labor Day) 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. lighthouse & island
- Last Tuesday of the month (March – October only) 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. mansion, lighthouse & island

Phone: Reservations: (912) 437-3224

Ferry Information: $10.00 per person roundtrip
No pets, bicycles, motorbikes, canoes, beach chairs or flammable liquids allowed on the state operated ferry. Visitors must pay ferry fees and sign the passenger list in the Sapelo Island Visitor Center in Meridian before boarding.

Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve
The Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve’s (SINERR) conservation efforts are focused on the natural, cultural and historical resources of all of coastal Georgia in general and Sapelo Island and the Duplin River estuary in particular. SINERR enables visitors to experience virtually every facet of a typical barrier island’s natural and cultural community through exhibits at the Long Tabby Interpretive Center and historic and cultural tours. SINERR is administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and managed by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources’ Wildlife Resources Division. It is located on the western
perimeter of Sapelo Island.

Phone: Information: (912) 485-2251; Education Office: (912) 485-2300

Sapelo Island Visitor Center
The Sapelo Island Visitor Center is located at the mainland ferry dock in Meridian. The Visitor Center distributes information about coastal ecosystems, educational opportunities and tourism activities. There are also ferry ticket sales, nature trails and interpretive exhibits about Sapelo Island’s natural and cultural history.

Phone: (912) 437-3224

Hours:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday – Friday</td>
<td>7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.</td>
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</table>

Directions: The Visitor Center and ferry dock are located in Meridian, 8 miles northeast of Darien, off GA Hwy 99. Take I-95 to Exit 49 and travel east towards Darien on GA Hwy 251. Turn left onto U.S. Hwy 17, and then turn right onto Blounts Crossing. Turn left onto GA Hwy 99 and follow to Meridian. Follow the signs to the Sapelo Island Visitor Center (on the right).

An alternative way to experience Sapelo Island is to volunteer with the Friends of Sapelo organization and participate in their monthly programs: Georgia Adopt-a-Stream, Ocean Conservancy National Marine Debris Monitoring (beach sweep) and NOAA Southeast Phytoplankton Monitoring Network. Additionally, volunteers can participate in clean-up projects at the lighthouse, nature trail and tabby ruins and in various research and monitoring efforts. Interested individuals should call the Reserve Education Office for details (912) 485-2300.

Glynn County

St. Simons Island
Located about 12 miles from Brunswick, St. Simons Island is the most populated of Georgia’s barrier islands. The 16.5 square mile island has more than 13,000 residents. St. Simons Island is popular with visitors seeking a variety of lodging, restaurants, shopping and entertainment options. The island has been home to Indian villages, Spanish missions, English forts and antebellum plantations. Outdoor recreational activities include fishing, biking, bird watching, golfing and tennis. The sandy beaches for sunbathing, swimming and beachcombing are limited to the southeastern end of the island. St. Simon’s beaches have experienced slow, natural changes. Some sections have expanded while others have shrunk. Most of the sand and silt deposits from the natural sand-sharing system of the barrier islands in this area accumulate on Little St. Simons Island and Sea Island to the north and east, respectively. Large portions of the beach have also been suddenly and violently removed by storms such as Hurricane Dora in 1964. To preserve the sandy beaches, a granite seawall composed of massive
boulders was constructed by the order of President Lyndon Johnson. Known locally as the “Johnson Rocks”, this seawall halts landward erosion.

**Directions to St. Simons Island:** From I-95 take Exit 29 to U.S. Hwy 17 North. About 0.5 miles north of downtown Brunswick, turn right onto the F.J. Torras Causeway and follow this road to St. Simons Island. Beach access directions in this guide are written from one main thoroughfare: Ocean Boulevard. Immediately after the last bridge on the F.J. Torras Causeway bear right onto Kings Way. Continue through the flashing caution light at Sea Island Road and the first traffic light (Frederica Road). At the second traffic light (at Mallery Street) Kings Way becomes Ocean Boulevard. The southernmost beach is described first and the northernmost last. It is important to note that north of East Beach Causeway the street numbering system starts again at 1st Street followed by the East designation (e.g. 1st Street E., 3rd Street E.).

**Southern beaches:**

**St. Simons Island Pier**
There is no beach access at the pier and swimming is prohibited due to strong currents and drop offs. However, the beach view across the sound to Jekyll Island is excellent. Fishing is permitted from the pier and the area has many restaurants and retail shops as well as a playground, picnic tables, miniature golf and restrooms.

**Directions:** At the second traffic light on Kings Way/Ocean Blvd. turn right onto Mallery Street. Proceed straight into the pier parking lot.

**12th Street Beach Access, St. Simons Island**
Swimming is prohibited in this location due to strong currents and drop offs and pets are not allowed on the beach between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. from Memorial Day to Labor Day. There is a Beach Water Quality Notification sign at this location.

**Directions:** At the second traffic light on Kings Way/Ocean Blvd. turn right onto Mallery Street. Turn left onto Beachview Drive and turn right onto 12th Street. There is a small parking area for public beach access and the St. Simons Lighthouse and Museum at the end of 12th Street.
Between 11th and 12th Street Beach Access, St. Simons Island
This access point between 11th and 12th streets is for pedestrians only. It is located on the right-hand side of Beach View Drive.

**Directions:** From the second traffic light on Kings Way turn right onto Mallery Street. Turn left onto Beachview Drive and look for the path after 12th Street.

11th Street Beach Access, St. Simons Island
The public beach access has a small parking area.

**Directions:** Follow Ocean Blvd. and turn right at the caution light onto 11th Street. Drive approximately 100 yards and the parking area is to the left.

10th Street Beach Access, St. Simons Island
The public beach access has a limited parking area.

**Directions:** Follow Ocean Blvd. and turn right at the caution light onto 11th Street. Turn left onto Oglethorpe Avenue and drive approximately 100 yards to the parking area to the right.

9th Street Beach Access, St. Simons Island
The public beach access has a limited parking area.

**Directions:** From Ocean Blvd. turn right onto 9th Street and continue straight until the street dead-ends at the parking area.

7th Street Beach Access, St. Simons Island
The public beach access is for bicyclists and pedestrians only. There is a caution against wading here as sharp objects are hidden below the water surface.

**Directions:** From Ocean Blvd. turn right onto 7th Street and continue straight until the street dead-ends at the beach access.

6th Street Beach Access, St. Simons Island
The public beach access is for bicyclists and pedestrians only.

**Directions:** From Ocean Blvd. turn right onto 6th Street and the beach access is on the right-hand side.

Beach View Drive/5th Street Beach Access, St. Simons Island
A Beach Water Quality Notification sign is located at this public access point. Parking is limited.

**Directions:** From Ocean Blvd. turn right onto 5th Street which becomes Beach View Drive. The parking area is to the right.

3rd Street Beach Access, St. Simons Island
This pedestrian and bicyclist only access has a Beach Water Quality Notification sign.
Directions: From Ocean Blvd. turn right on 3rd Street and follow to the end.

2nd Street Beach Access, St. Simons Island
This public beach access has limited parking.

Directions: From Ocean Blvd. turn right onto 3rd Street and left onto Beach View Drive. The parking area is one block further to the right.

1st Street Beach Access, St. Simons Island
This public path to the beach is for pedestrians and bicyclists only.

Directions: From Ocean Blvd. turn right onto 1st Street and follow to the end.

Myrtle Street and Cedar Street Beach Accesses, St. Simons Island
These public beach access points have Beach Water Quality Notification signs and ample parking in a shared lot. The Myrtle Street access also has litterbags for dog waste and handicapped parking spaces (beach is not wheelchair accessible).

Directions: From Ocean Blvd. turn right onto Myrtle Street, left onto Beach View Drive and then right onto Cedar Street. Follow Cedar Street to the end or bear right to the Myrtle Street access. Note: the Myrtle Street beach access is located on a one-way road, so visitors must pass Myrtle Street and turn right at Cedar Street.

Arnold Road and Neptune Road Beach Accesses, St. Simons Island
The Arnold Road public beach access is for pedestrians and bicyclists only. Visitors must walk beside the gate to the King and Prince Hotel. The Neptune Road public beach access has a Beach Water Quality Notification sign and a small parking area. Beachgoers are limited to the parking spaces marked “Public Parking” and should not park in spaces for hotel guests.

Directions: From Ocean Blvd. turn right onto Arnold Street and follow it into the King and Prince Hotel parking lot. The Arnold Road access is straight ahead. To access Neptune Road, turn right at the hotel registration building and drive one block. The public access is to the left and parking is to the right. Note: the Neptune Road beach access is located on a one-way road, so visitors must drive to Arnold Road and pass through the King and Prince Hotel parking lot.

Massengale Park Beach Access, St. Simons Island
This public park has a Beach Water Quality Notification sign, a handicapped access ramp to the beach and a beach accessible surface (beach mat). There is also abundant parking including handicapped accessible spaces. The park has a playground, picnic tables, restrooms, water fountains and outdoor showers. The gates are open from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Directions: From Ocean Blvd. turn right directly into Massengale Park (look for the park sign at the gate).
Eastern beaches:
The following beaches can be reached from Ocean Boulevard by turning right onto East Beach Causeway. Then either turn right onto Wood Avenue to access Driftwood Drive and Olive Way beaches or left onto Bruce Drive to access the remaining eastern beaches.

Driftwood Drive Beach Access, St. Simons Island
This beach access point has a Beach Water Quality Notification sign and a small parking lot.

Directions: From Wood Avenue turn left onto Driftwood Drive. Follow the road to the end.

Olive Way Beach Access, St. Simons Island
This public beach access is for pedestrians and bicyclists only. Follow the path along the construction fence to the beach.

Directions: From Wood Avenue turn left onto Olive Way. Follow the road to the end.

1st Street E. /Old Coast Guard Station Beach Access, St. Simons Island
This beach access point has a handicapped accessible ramp to the beach and a beach accessible surface (beach mat). There is also a Beach Water Quality Notification sign, restrooms, outdoor showers and water fountains. Parking spaces are abundant including handicapped accessible spaces. Pets are not allowed on the beach from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Directions: From Ocean Blvd. turn right onto East Beach Causeway and follow the causeway to the end (past the Old Coast Guard Station and Museum).

3rd Street E. Beach Access, St. Simons Island
Pedestrians and bicyclists only can access the beach at this point.

Directions: From Bruce Drive turn right onto 3rd Street E. Follow the street to the end.

5th Street E. Beach Access, St. Simons Island
Pedestrians and bicyclists only can access the beach at this point.

Directions: From Bruce Drive turn right onto 5th Street E. Follow the street to the end.

6th Street E. Beach Access, St. Simons Island
Pedestrians and bicyclists only can access the beach at this point.

Directions: From Bruce Drive turn right onto 6th Street E. Follow the street to the end.

7th Street E. Beach Access, St. Simons Island
Pedestrians and bicyclists only can access the beach at this point.

Directions: From Bruce Drive turn right onto 7th Street E. Follow the street to the end.
8th Street E. Beach Access, St. Simons Island
Pedestrians and bicyclists only can access the beach at this point.

**Directions:** From Bruce Drive turn right onto 8th Street E. Follow the street to the end.

9th Street E. Beach Access, St. Simons Island
Pedestrians and bicyclists only can access the beach at this point.

**Directions:** From Bruce Drive turn right onto 9th Street E. Follow the street to the end.

11th Street E. Beach Access, St. Simons Island
Pedestrians and bicyclists only can access the beach at this point.

**Directions:** From Bruce Drive turn right onto 11th Street E. Follow the street to the end.

13th Street E. Beach Access, St. Simons Island
Pedestrians and bicyclists only can access the beach at this point.

**Directions:** From Bruce Drive turn right onto 13th Street E. Follow the street to the end.

14th Street E. Beach Access, St. Simons Island
Pedestrians and bicyclists only can access the beach at this point.

**Directions:** 14th Street E. is unmarked to the right of Bruce Drive. Turn right onto the unpaved, sandy path and look for the green sign indicating the public beach access.

Gould’s Inlet/15th Street E. Beach Access, St. Simons Island
A Beach Water Quality Notification sign and a moderate sized parking lot with handicapped accessible spaces (no wheelchair access to the beach) are located at this access point. There is also a fishing pier with an excellent view across the inlet of the undeveloped southern end of Sea Island. Swimmers and waders should be cautious of very strong currents that create dangerous conditions in this area. Pets are not allowed on the beach from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. from Memorial Day to Labor Day. This location is on the Colonial Coast Birding Trail.

**Directions:** Follow Bruce Drive to the end and parking spaces are to the right.
Jekyll Island
The state of Georgia purchased Jekyll Island in 1947 to create a state park. The Jekyll Island Authority, the self-sustaining governing body that operates the island today, was created in 1950. By legislative mandate, 65% of Jekyll Island remains in its natural state, and the island’s beaches, maritime forests and inland marshes are teeming with wildlife. There are 10 miles of unspoiled beaches perfect for sunbathing, swimming, walking, jogging and shell collecting. Several beaches have public restrooms, showers and picnic areas. As on most natural barrier islands, the beaches feature unique formations that are ever-changing. This phenomenon is attributed to tides and wind and water currents that deposit sand and silt from the marshlands of the north onto the beaches of the south creating a dynamic coastline. In addition to enjoying the beach, visitors can fish, birdwatch, explore biking and nature trails, visit the Summer Waves Waterpark or take guided tours of the Landmark Historic District with buildings from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. There are also hotels, camping, a convention center and four golf courses on the island.

Directions to Jekyll Island: From I-95 take Exit 29 to U.S. Hwy 17 North. Proceed approximately 5 miles and turn right onto the Downing Musgrove Causeway to Jekyll Island. At the end of the causeway, visitors are required to stop at the entrance booth and pay a parking fee before accessing the island. Maps and other information are also available at the booth.

Jekyll Island State Park parking fees:

- Daily Pass (valid 24 hours) $3.00
- 7-Day Pass $21.00
- Annual Pass $40.00

Southern Beaches: To access the beaches on the southern end of Jekyll Island, drive straight across the island from the parking fee collection booth and turn right onto South Beachview Drive. All the directions below begin from this road.

St. Andrews Picnic Area & Beach Access, Jekyll Island
The picnic area offers shaded picnic tables (some with charcoal grills), restrooms and water fountains. There are handicapped accessible parking spaces as well as a handicapped accessible ramp to the beach. Additionally, there are dog-litter bags for removing pet waste, a fishing line recycling center, an outdoor shower and a Beach Water Quality Notification sign. St. Andrews beach is also an excellent spot for fishing and seining. Please respect the nesting and resting birds by staying off the dunes, keeping your dogs on a leash and giving birds a wide berth when walking or biking. Camping and open fires are prohibited.

Directions: Drive 2.8 miles into the entrance to the picnic area.

St. Andrew’s Cut Beach Access, Jekyll Island
There is room for 3 or 4 vehicles to park close to Macy Drive, but no vehicles are allowed beyond the signs to this public beach access. A 300-yard walk along a sandy path and wooden boardwalk leads to the beach. Please respect the nesting and resting birds by staying off the dunes, keeping your dogs on a leash and giving birds a wide berth when walking or biking. Camping and open fires are prohibited.
birds by staying off the dunes, keeping your dogs on a leash and giving birds a wide berth when walking or biking.

**Directions:** Turn left onto Macy Drive and follow to the end.

**Jekyll Island Soccer Complex and South End Beach Access, Jekyll Island**
This beach is often referred to as “Glory Beach” in reference to the film “Glory,” the 1989 Academy Award-winning drama, whose beach scenes were filmed here. The soccer complex has handicapped parking spaces and beach access; however, the dune crossover structure is quite long (about 100 yards) and sand has encroached onto the walk near the beach. There is a Beach Water Quality Notification sign and dog-litter bags for removing pet waste. Restrooms are located across the soccer fields from the beach access. Please respect the nesting and resting birds by staying off the dunes, keeping your dogs on a leash and giving birds a wide berth when walking or biking. No pets or golfing are allowed on the soccer fields.

**Directions:** Turn left at the sign for the Jekyll Island Soccer Complex.

**Water Tower Beach Access, Jekyll Island**
This beach access has very limited parking along the road. There are dog-litter bags for removing your pet’s waste and a 100-yard walk along a sandy path to the beach.

**Directions:** Turn left directly across from the water tower.

**South Dunes Picnic Area & Beach Access, Jekyll Island**
This is a large, lighted picnic area with pavilions (one of which is screened-in), restrooms and handicapped accessible parking spaces (picnic area is accessible, but the beach is not). The dune crossover structure is tiered giving visitors a bird’s-eye view of the maritime forest. There is a Beach Water Quality Notification sign, dog-litter bags for removing pet waste and outdoor showers. For picnic pavilions, reservations have priority.

Phone: Picnic reservations (912) 635-3400

**Directions:** Turn left into parking lot at the sign for South Dunes Picnic Area.

**Convention Center South Beach Access, Jekyll Island**
This beach access has a large, paved parking lot with handicapped accessible spaces and a handicapped accessible ramp to the beach. In addition to a Beach Water Quality Notification sign and dog-litter bags for removing pet waste, there are outdoor showers, restrooms, water fountains and a large, lighted observation/sunning deck.

**Directions:** Turn left into the large parking lot directly south of the Convention Center.

**Northern Beaches:** To access the beaches on the northern end of Jekyll Island, drive straight across the island from the parking fee collection booth and turn left onto North Beachview Drive. All the directions below begin from this road.
Convention Center North to Blackbeard’s Restaurant Beach Access, Jekyll Island
There are four beach access points just north of the Convention Center up to Blackbeard’s Restaurant. These access points are connected by a continuous parking lot and by a beach view sidewalk.

First and Second: Outdoor shower, Beach Water Quality Notification sign, dog-litter bags for removing pet waste and a dune crossover structure accessed by stairs.

Third: Outdoor shower, Beach Water Quality Notification sign, dog-litter bags for removing pet waste, restrooms, picnic tables and handicapped accessible beach.

Fourth: Outdoor shower, Beach Water Quality Notification sign, dog-litter bags for removing pet waste and dune crossover structure accessed by stairs.

Directions: Turn right into the large parking lot directly north of the Convention Center. To access the more northern beaches, either drive north through the parking lot or walk along the sidewalk.

North – Central Beach Access, Jekyll Island
This public access point has a Beach Water Quality Notification sign, restrooms, handicapped accessible parking and restrooms; however the dune crossover structures have stairs.

Directions: Turn right into the unmarked parking lot.

Captain Wylly Road Beach Access, Jekyll Island
This beach is accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists only. There is a Beach Water Quality Notification sign and dog-litter bags for removing pet waste.

Directions: Turn right onto Wylly Road and follow it to the sandy path to the beach.

Brice Lane Beach Access, Jekyll Island
This beach is accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists only.

Directions: Turn right onto Brice Lane and follow it to the sandy path and dune crossover structure to the beach.

King Avenue Beach Access, Jekyll Island
This beach is accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists only.

Directions: Turn right onto King Avenue and follow it to the sandy path and dune crossover structure to the beach.

Dexter Lane Beach Access, Jekyll Island
This beach is accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists only. There is a Beach Water Quality Notification sign and dog-litter bags for removing pet waste.

Directions: Turn right onto Dexter Lane and follow it to the sandy path to the beach.

Albright Lane Beach Access, Jekyll Island
This beach is accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists only.
Directions: Turn right onto Albright Lane and follow it to the sandy path and dune crossover structure to the beach.

Gould Lane Beach Access, Jekyll Island
This beach is accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists only.

Directions: Turn right onto Gould Lane and follow it to the sandy path to the beach.

Clam Creek Picnic Area & North End Beach Access & Fishing Pier, Jekyll Island
The Clam Creek Picnic Area and North End Beach Access has ample parking with handicapped accessible spaces and wheelchair access to both the fishing pier and beach. There is also a Beach Water Quality Notification sign, picnic tables (some with charcoal grills), outdoor showers, restrooms and water fountains. A fishing line recycling center is available. This spot is on the Colonial Coast Birding Trail.

Directions: Turn right at the sign for the Clam Creek Picnic Area (across from the Campground). Continue straight until the road ends at the pier.

Camden County

Cumberland Island National Seashore
Cumberland Island National Seashore is Georgia’s largest barrier island. Its 36,000 acres are mostly undeveloped, and the island is home to one of the largest remaining maritime forests in the United States. Sixteen miles of sandy beaches lie along the eastern shore. Abundant wildlife is found on Cumberland Island from threatened and endangered manatees and sea turtles to over 300 species of birds. Visitors may encounter wild turkeys, armadillos, dolphins and feral horses in a single day. Campers may experience the more elusive white-tailed deer, bobcats and otters that are active at dawn and dusk. Cumberland Island is an outstanding place to collect unoccupied seashells and to find sharks teeth. Swimming is allowed anywhere on the island, but there are no lifeguards. Riptides are minimal unless a hurricane or strong storm is near. Be advised that fresh water ponds are home to snakes and alligators. There are no stores on the island, so visitors must bring food, beverages, sunscreen, insect repellent, rain gear, personal medication and other necessities. Private boaters may dock at Sea Camp or Plum Orchard. Overnight boaters must anchor offshore.

Phone: (912) 882-4336 ext. 254

Admission:

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Park</th>
<th>Camping (in addition to Park Fee)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>$4.00 per visit</td>
<td>Sea Camp Campground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children (under 16 years)</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>$4.00 per person per day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back Country Camping</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Hours:** The Visitor Center in St. Marys is open daily 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. The National Seashore is open 24 hours a day; however, access to and from Cumberland Island is determined by the ferry schedule. Park facilities are closed on December 25.

**Directions:** From I-95 follow GA Hwy 40 East to St. Marys. The visitor center and ferry dock are at the end of the road on the waterfront.

**Ferry Information:** Reservations are recommended and can be made up to 6 months in advance. When making reservations, be sure to confirm the ferry’s departure and arrival times. No pets, bikes or cars are allowed on the ferry.

**Ferry Phone:** (912) 882-4335 or (887) 860-6787 weekdays from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Ferry Tickets:**

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>$17.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children (age 12 and under)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seniors (age 65 and over)</td>
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*Ferry is operated by a concessionaire; Parks Passes do not apply to ferry ticket charges.

**Ferry Schedule:** Ferry trips are approximately 45 minutes in duration.

- **December 1 – February 28**
  - No trips on Tuesday or Wednesday
  - Depart St. Marys: 9:00 a.m., 11:45 a.m.
  - Depart Cumberland: 10:15 a.m., 4:45 p.m.

- **March 1 – November 30**
  - Trips 7 days a week
  - Depart St. Marys: 9:00 a.m., 11:45 a.m.
  - Depart Cumberland: 10:15 a.m., 4:45 p.m.
  - Wednesday – Saturday additional departure from Cumberland Island 2:45 p.m.
  (March 1 – September 30 ONLY)
Wildlife Viewing and Walking Trails

Introduction

The Colonial Coast Birding Trail
The Colonial Coast Birding Trail traverses coastal Georgia in near proximity to Interstate Highway I-95. Most of the designations along the trail are located on historical or cultural sites, so while non-birders wander through Civil War forts or Colonial and Antebellum plantations, birders in their party can search for species such as painted buntings, one of the most brilliantly colored birds in North America, or endangered wood storks, the trail’s symbol.

The Colonial Coast Birding Trail winds through a variety of habitats giving visitors the chance to explore shores, salt marshes, freshwater wetlands, maritime forests and other ecosystems. More than 300 species of birds have been seen on the trail; however, do not look forward to seeing all of these birds on a single visit. The species and number of birds along the Colonial Coast Birding Trail change with the site, the tide and the season, making each visit to the trail a new experience.

A map of the Colonial Coast Birding Trail and descriptions of sites along the trail are detailed below including tips on how to see some of Georgia’s more interesting avian species. Additionally, many other prime wildlife viewing and walking trail locations in Coastal Georgia are listed in this guide in a north to south direction.

The Colonial Coast Birding Trail

Map courtesy of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources’ Wildlife Resources Division
Chatham County

Fort Pulaski National Monument
*A Colonial Coast Birding Trail Site*
Located on 5,600 acres near the mouth of the Savannah River, 90% of Fort Pulaski National Monument consists of wetlands. The site contains the historic fort, McQueen’s Island, Cockspur Island and the adjacent salt marsh. A maritime forest has developed in the center of Cockspur Island. The diverse habitats on the site support some 200 species of birds in addition to alligators, deer and other wildlife.

Visitors can tour the fort and visitor’s center, enjoy kayaking and fishing and explore four trails made for biking and walking. *North Pier Trail:* scenic woods and historic sites, 0.25 mile. *Lighthouse Trail:* open marsh and forest and best views of Cockspur lighthouse, 0.75 miles. *Historic Dike System:* system designed by Robert E. Lee to manage water for construction of the fort, views of Cockspur Island and the Savannah River, a 2 mile circle around fort. *McQueen’s Island Rails to Trails:* the path of the old Tybee rail line, which ran from Savannah to Tybee island, now a packed gravel trail open to walkers, runners and bikers, 6 miles.

*Types of Birds:* songbirds, shorebirds, wading birds, waterfowl

*Best Birding Seasons:* songbirds (all), shorebirds (all), wading birds (all), waterfowl (winter)

*Specialties:* painted bunting

*What to look for:* In spring through summer, look for painted buntings along the edges of woodlands on Cockspur Island. This is also an excellent place to spot migratory songbirds in spring and late summer through fall. Year-round, clapper rails, seaside sparrows and marsh wrens can be seen and/or heard in the marshes around the fort and shorebirds can be seen along the shoreline (best at low tide).

For directions and detailed information, please see Fort Pulaski National Monument in the *Cultural & Historic Sites* section.

Oatland Island Wildlife Center

Oatland Island Wildlife Center occupies 60 acres of maritime forest. The wildlife center offers a quality learning experience with animal exhibits, pristine habitats and environmental education. Exhibits include Alligator Wetlands, The Georgia Farm (domestic farm animals) and Predators of Georgia, which features mammalian predators such as Florida panthers and timber wolves. Additionally, the Birds of Prey exhibit houses hawks, owls, bald eagles and a full size replica of a bald eagle’s nest. There are also opportunities to observe pelicans, herons and sandhill cranes in the Alligator Wetlands exhibit and to view wild birds from the wetlands observation pier, in the wildlife center’s tidal marsh and around Richardson’s Creek.

Oatland Island has a varied history beginning in the 18th century when it was agricultural land. In the 1920’s, the white-columned main building was made into
a home for retired railroad conductors. During World War II, the facility became a Public Health Service hospital. Afterwards, Oatland Island was used by the Center for Disease Control as a Technical Development Laboratory until the Savannah-Chatham County School System purchased the land 30 years ago. Oatland Island has educated guests about Georgia’s native wildlife ever since. Some wonder if Oatland Island is haunted. Visitors can investigate for themselves by taking a Haunted Tour of the island with Sixth Sense Savannah, a local ghost tour company. Information, tour dates/times and tickets are arranged through Sixth Sense Savannah.

**Phone:** Oatland Island (912) 898-3980  
Sixth Sense Savannah (912) 898-3980

**Admission:**  
- Adults $5.00  
- Children (ages 4 – 17) $3.00  
- Seniors (over 65) $3.00  
Prices may vary during selected special events.

**Hours:** 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. daily  
The Center is closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s Day

**Directions:** Take I-95 to I-16 East. Follow I-16 to the end and merge onto Martin Luther King Boulevard. Turn right onto E. Liberty Street and left onto E. Broad Street. Turn right onto E. President Street (Islands Expressway). Drive approximately 5 miles and the wildlife center is on the right.

The animals are most active the first hour the center is open and also on overcast days. The cooler months of November to February offer optimal viewing. Vending machines are available, and guests are encouraged to picnic under the covered pavilions. Typical visits are about 2 hours long. Guests should dress appropriately for outdoor conditions.

**Savannah-Ogeechee Canal Museum & Nature Center**  
*A Colonial Coast Birding Trail Site*  
During the 1800’s, a 16.5 mile system of barge canals connected the Savannah and Ogeechee rivers to transport lumber, cotton and other goods through South Georgia. Today, the natural and historical heritage of this canal is preserved in a site operated by Chatham County’s Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs and the Savannah-Ogeechee Canal Society. The remnants of the canal system are located in a floodplain habitat of pine flatwoods, river swamp and sand hills.

Visitors may tour the nature center and museum, explore old locks, watch for wildlife and take a short, scenic walk along the old towpath beside the canal.

**Types of Birds:** birds of prey, songbirds, wading birds

**Best Birding Seasons:** songbirds (all), birds of prey (all), wading birds (all)

**Specialties:** prothonotary warbler, northern parula, Swainson’s warbler, wood duck, Mississippi kite, swallow-tailed kite
**What to Look For:** In spring and summer, search for prothonotary warblers and Swainson’s warblers and scan the sky for Mississippi kites and swallow-tailed kites. In spring and fall watch for migrating warblers.

**Phone:** (912) 748-8068

**Admission:**
- Adults $2.00
- Children (over 6) $1.00

**Hours:** 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. daily

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 94 onto GA Hwy 204 (Fort Argyle Road). Travel west approximately 2 miles. The entrance to the site is on the left.

**Skidaway Island State Park**

*A Colonial Coast Birding Trail Site*

This state park is located on a barrier island and is characterized by tidal rivers and estuaries, salt marshes and flats and mature maritime forest. Two nature trails wind through various habitats with an observation tower offering views of birds and other wildlife.

Visitors can enter the nature center, look for raccoons, alligators and deer, and walk the two nature trails that wind through the park. The *Sandpiper Nature Trail* overlooks the salt-flats and the Intracoastal Waterway and includes a boardwalk, 1.5 miles. The *Big Ferry Nature Trail* includes an observation tower, 3.5 miles.

**Types of Birds:** songbirds, shorebirds, wading birds, waterfowl

**Best Birding Seasons:** songbirds (all), shorebirds (all), wading birds (all), waterfowl (winter)

**Specialties:** osprey, painted bunting, pileated woodpecker, bald eagle

**What to Look For:** Spring and fall warbler watching can be spectacular during migration. In spring and summer, look for painted buntings and nesting osprey. Year-round, listen and look for marsh wrens and clapper rails in salt marshes.

**Phone:** (912) 598-2300

**Admission:**
- Daily parking fee $3.00 per vehicle
- Annual Park Pass* $30.00
  * valid at all State Parks in Georgia

**Hours:** 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. daily; office hours 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. daily

**Directions:** From I-95 take I-16 East towards Savannah. Take Exit 164A onto the Lynes Parkway (I-516) East. The parkway will become Derenne Avenue. Merge onto
Truman Parkway South and continue until it ends at Whitfield Avenue and turn left. This road becomes the Diamond Causeway. Cross the drawbridge over the Skidaway River and continue to Skidaway Island State Park on the left.

**Tybee Island – North Beach**  
*A Colonial Coast Birding Trail Site*  
The northern-most island on the Georgia coast, Tybee Island offers terrific birding opportunities along the beach at the north end. This is also the best place in Georgia to find purple sandpipers.

**Types of Birds:** shorebirds, gull-like birds  

**Best Birding Seasons:** shorebirds (fall, winter, spring), gull-like birds (all)  

**Specialties:** purple sandpiper, piping plover, northern gannets  

**What to Look For:** In winter, look for purple sandpipers along the rocks and near the beach at high tide and for northern gannets, gulls and terns flying just offshore. Year-round, sandpipers, gulls and terns gather in flocks along the beach at high tide. Note: Please do not disturb resting or nesting birds. Also, visit the Tybee Lighthouse and Museum and the Marine Science Center.

For directions and detailed information, please see Tybee Island in the *Beaches and Barrier Islands* section.

**Effingham County**

**Pilgrim Walking Trail**  
This one-mile long nature trail is located on the site of the historic Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Normal and Industrial Institute for Colored Students. The institute was established, organized, funded and staffed by African Americans to teach vocational classes to the black community.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 102 (Pooler) and drive west on U.S. Hwy 80. Then take GA Hwy 17 north to the town of Guyton.

**Bryan County**

**Fort McAllister State Historic Park**  
*A Colonial Coast Birding Trail Site*  
Fort McAllister defended the Confederacy from several attacks during the Civil War and finally fell to General William T. Sherman during his March to the Sea. The park is now home to the best preserved earthwork fortifications of the Confederacy. Located along the Ogeechee River, the site has access to both fresh and salt water and contains a mix of salt marsh and forested habitats.
Visitors may tour the fort and museum, go fishing, boating or camping and hike along 4.3 miles of trail.

Types of Birds: songbirds, wading birds, waterfowl

Best Birding Seasons: songbirds (all), wading birds (all), waterfowl (winter)

Specialties: painted bunting, wood duck, northern harrier, bald eagle, osprey

What to Look For: In late spring through summer, search for painted buntings along the causeway. During spring and fall migration, look for migrating warblers. Summer and spring are the best time to look for Ospreys. Winter is the best time to see bald eagles and look over the marsh for northern harriers.

For directions and detailed information, please see Fort McAllister State Historic Park in the Cultural and Historic Sites section.

**Richmond Hill J.F. Gregory City Park**

*A Colonial Coast Birding Trail Site*

This 335 acre multi-use park is operated by the City of Richmond Hill. A former rice plantation, and later owned by Henry Ford, the park contains a Wetlands Education Center, a 10 acre lake, a three mile walking trail and two houses from the Ford era. The park is dominated by the wooded wetland that was once a rice field. There are excellent opportunities to view birds from the three-mile walking trail running along the top of the dike as well from an observation tower.

Types of Birds: songbirds, wading birds, waterfowl

Best Birding Seasons: songbirds (all), wading birds (all), waterfowl (winter)

Specialties: prothonotary warbler, wood duck, barred owl

What to Look For: During spring and fall, look for migrating warblers. April to June are the best months to see prothonotary warblers.

Phone: (912) 756-3345

Admission: None

Hours: Open daily during daylight hours

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 90 onto GA Hwy 144 East towards Richmond Hill. Turn left on Cedar Street and proceed a short distance to the park.
Liberty County

Fort Morris State Historic Site
*A Colonial Coast Birding Trail Site*
This historic site has a long and varied history. Originally a Guale Indian village and once home to the seaport town of Sunbury, the site became Fort Morris in 1776, and defended Georgia’s coast during both the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. The approximately 70 acres of the site are composed primarily of salt marsh and forested upland.

*Types of Birds:* songbirds, wading birds

*Best Birding Seasons:* songbirds (all), wading birds (all)

*Specialties:* Yellow-throated warbler, marsh wren, clapper rail, painted bunting

*What to Look For:* Spring and summer are the best times to view painted buntings and also to listen for marsh wrens and clapper rails in the salt marshes when the birds are most vocal. During spring and fall migration, warblers are abundant in the woodlands.

For directions and detailed information, please see Fort Morris State Historic Site in the Cultural and Historic Sites section.

Melon Bluff Nature and Heritage Reserve
*A Colonial Coast Birding Trail Site*
Melon Bluff Nature and Heritage Reserve is privately owned and located on a former rice plantation. The 3,000-acre preserve offers opportunities to view birds in blackwater swamp, salt marsh, woodland and river habitats. The approximately 2.5 mile long Devendorf Birding Trail is an interpretive trail running through various forested ecosystems. Pets are not allowed in the reserve.

Visitors may attend events at the Nature Center and stay in the Palmyra Bed and Breakfast. Sea kayaks are also available for rent. There are 25 miles of grassy, forested trails for hiking, biking or horseback riding.

*Types of Birds:* songbirds, wading birds, waterfowl, shorebirds, birds of prey, marsh birds

*Best Birding Seasons:* songbirds (all), wading birds (all), marsh birds (all), waterfowl (winter), birds of prey (winter)

*Specialties:* wild turkey, wood stork, clapper rail, roseate spoonbill, painted bunting

*What to Look For:* During spring and fall, look for migrating warblers. Year-round listen for marsh wrens and clapper rails.

*Phone:* (912) 884-5779
Admission:  Day Use $3.00 per person
Trail Riding (by pre-arrangement only) $15.00 per horse per day

Hours:  9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Saturday only from September 15 to May 15

Directions:  Take I-95 to Exit 76 and travel east on Islands Highway approximately 3 miles. The Melon Bluff Nature and Heritage Reserve is on the right. Please park and check in at the Nature Center.

**Long County**

**Griffin Ridge Wildlife Management Area**
Griffin Ridge Wildlife Management Area is approximately 5,616 acres and made up of two sand ridges. The area is operated and maintained by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources’ Wildlife Resources Division. The area contains cycling, hiking, walking trails, wildlife viewing and birding opportunities. Hunting and fishing are available on the site. As in all areas where hunting is allowed, caution must be taken during hunting seasons.

Admission:  None

Hours:  Open daily during daylight hours

Directions:  From Ludowici, take U.S. Hwy 301 South for 4.5 miles and watch for signs.

**Beard’s Bluff on the Altamaha River**
Excellent views and access to the Altamaha River are available at Adamson’s Fish Camp at Beard’s Bluff. The facility also provides water, electricity, public restrooms, showers, cabins, a boat ramp and rental boats. A primitive camping area for tents and a general store are also available.

Admission:  Inquire at site

Directions:  From Ludowici, take U.S. Hwy 301 North to County Road 125 South and watch for signs.

**McIntosh County**

**Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge**
*A Colonial Coast Birding Trail Site*
Once a World War II Army airfield, the refuge’s 2,824 acres consisting of saltwater marshes, grasslands, mixed deciduous forests, open fields and other habitats attract many species of birds throughout the year. In the winter, large groups of ducks congregate in the marshland and freshwater pools, while in the summer thousands of large wading birds nest in colonies in the swamps. There are approximately 300 pairs
of endangered wood storks nesting on the refuge, and Harris Neck is the only provider of man-made nesting structures for this species. Many areas are easily accessible by over 15 miles of paved roads and trails making most of the refuge visible by car for elderly or handicapped visitors. Some areas of the refuge may be closed during certain seasons to protect the wildlife from human disturbance.

Visitors may fish from a handicapped accessible pier, take a driving tour or explore the refuge via bicycle trails.

**Types of Birds:** songbirds, birds of prey, wading birds, waterfowl

**Best Birding Seasons:** songbirds (all), birds of prey (all), wading birds (all), waterfowl (all)

**Specialties:** wood stork, white ibis, painted bunting

**What to Look For:** May and June are the best time to view nesting wood storks, great egrets, snowy egrets, black-crowned night herons, anhinga and other wading birds. Nesting wading birds are best viewed with a spotting scope. In late spring through summer look for painted buntings.

**Phone:** (912) 652-4415

**Admission:** None

**Hours:** Open daily during daylight hours

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 67, and travel south on U.S. Hwy 17 approximately 1.2 miles. Turn left onto Harris Neck Road/GA Hwy 131 (just past the Smallest Church in America). Continue 6.5 miles to the refuge entrance on the left.

**Ansley Hodges M.A.R.S.H. Project (Altamaha Wildlife Management Area) A Colonial Coast Birding Trail Site**

Located on the Altamaha Wildlife Management Area, the Ansley Hodges viewing area overlooks an impoundment constructed by Ducks Unlimited as part of the Matching Aid to Restore State’s Habitat (M.A.R.S.H.) program. The impoundment is on the remains of an old rice plantation. The area is managed to benefit waterfowl and other wildlife species.

**Types of Birds:** birds of prey, shorebirds, songbirds, wading birds, waterfowl, raptors

**Best Birding Seasons:** songbirds (all), shorebirds (all), wading birds (all), waterfowl (fall and winter), raptors (fall and winter)

**Specialties:** wood stork, swallow-tailed kite, bald eagle, king rail, painted bunting, mottled duck, wood duck, white ibis, glossy ibis
What to Look For: In the impoundment, look for wood ducks in summer and black ducks, pintails, green-winged teal, northern shovelers and other waterfowl in the fall and winter. In vegetative impoundments, look for elusive rail species. In exposed muddy areas, look for common snipe feeding. In winter and spring bald eagles can be spotted.

Phone: (912) 262-3173

Admission: None

Hours: Open daily during daylight hours

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 42 onto GA Hwy 99 East. Proceed approximately 1 mile to U.S. Hwy 17. Turn left onto U.S. Hwy 17 towards Darien. Travel approximately 2 miles and cross the Altamaha River onto Champney Island. Travel a short distance and look for the direction sign on the left.

Billy Cullens Memorial Trail
This 2.4 mile trail winds through the managed impoundment on the Butler Island Refuge unit of the Altamaha Wildlife Management Area. Interpretive signs educate visitors on marshes, wetlands, waterfowl and other birds. Wetland dependent wildlife can be observed from observation towers. The area was once a rice plantation and now serves as a refuge for alligators, deer, birds and other wildlife.

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 42 onto GA Hwy 99 East. Proceed approximately 1 mile to U.S. Hwy 17. Turn left onto U.S. Hwy 17 towards Darien. Travel approximately 2 miles and cross the Altamaha River. Proceed across the Champney River onto Butler Island and watch for the direction sign on the right.

Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation State Historic Site
A Colonial Coast Birding Trail Site
Located along the Altamaha River, Hofwyl-Broadfield was a thriving rice plantation from 1800 to 1915. The 1,268-acre historic site consists of a museum, the historic plantation house and a mix of salt marsh, pasture and flatwoods habitats.

Visitors may explore the 1 mile nature trail on the plantation property which includes marsh overlooks, an observation deck and plantation outbuildings. A second trail, 2.5 miles in length, is directly across from the plantation entrance on U.S. Hwy 17 and includes observation areas and a pond.

Types of Birds: birds of prey, songbirds, wading birds, waterfowl
Best Birding Seasons: birds of prey (winter), songbirds (all), wading birds (all), waterfowl (winter)

Specialties: wood stork, bald eagle, osprey, glossy ibis, painted bunting, yellow-throated warbler, sharp-tailed sparrow, northern parula.

What to Look For: From spring to summer, ospreys are most common and northern parulas and yellow-throated warblers can be found. During spring and fall migration,
look for migrating warblers. Year-round, clapper rails and marsh wrens can be seen and/or heard in the marshes.

For directions and detailed information, please see Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation State Historic Site in the *Cultural and Historic Sites* section.

**Wayne County**

**Penholoway Swamp Wildlife Management Area**
In addition to wading birds, shorebirds and neotropical migratory birds, this area supports several species of waterfowl including mottled ducks, American black ducks, mallards and wood ducks. Protection of Penholoway Swamp is part of a larger cooperative effort to conserve wetlands throughout the Altamaha watershed and maintain the water quality of the Altamaha River. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages the property as the Penholoway Swamp Wildlife Management Area, and it is open for public recreation. No facilities are available.

**Directions:** From Brunswick take U.S. Hwy 341 North to Gardi. Turn right on Morning Glory Circle, then stay right on River Road. The Wildlife Management Area is off River Road just before Paradise Park Road.

**Glynn County**

**St. Simons Island – Gould’s Inlet & East Beach**

*A Colonial Coast Birding Trail Site*
Gould’s Inlet is the opening between St. Simons East Beach and the southern tip of Sea Island. It is a St. Simons Island residential area that includes some county-owned lands with excellent birding opportunities.

*Types of Birds:* birds of prey, shorebirds, songbirds, wading birds, waterfowl
*Best Birding Seasons:* birds of prey (all), shorebirds (all), wading birds (all), waterfowl (winter)
*Specialties:* American oystercatcher, black skimmer, painted bunting, bald eagle, least tern, northern gannet
*What to Look For:* High tide, especially in the afternoon, is the best time to view birds. In the spring and summer, look for painted buntings in the upland habitats. During spring and fall migration, search for warblers also in the uplands. View laughing gulls, black skimmers, and royal and Caspian terns on the beach. In winter, look for common and red-throated loons, scoters, scaup and other water birds in the ocean and search for northern gannets out over the water.

For directions and detailed information, please see the Gould’s Inlet/15th Street E. Beach Access, St. Simons Island in the *Beaches and Barrier Islands* section.

**Gascoigne Bluff Fitness/Nature Trail, St. Simons Island**
This paved fitness/nature trail traverses about two miles through live oak woods with 10 fitness stations along the way. The trail is open during daylight hours and there are abundant parking spaces.
**Directions:** From the F.J. Torras Causeway, keep left onto Demere Road to the first traffic light. Turn left onto Sea Island Road. Make the first left onto Hamilton Road and then turn left onto Arthur J. Moore Drive. The trail is on the left just past the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) building. Parking is on the right.

For directions and detailed information, please see St. Simons Island in the *Beaches and Barrier Islands* section.

**John Gilbert Nature Trail, St. Simons Island**
This nature trail traverses through the woods and to the marshes. It has a marsh overlook and is a good place to view birds. Parking spaces are limited.

**Directions:** From the F.J Torras Causeway keep left onto Demere Road. Turn left at the second light onto Frederica Road and go about 1.1 miles. Turn right just past Wildlife Drive.

For directions and detailed information, please see St. Simons Island in the *Beaches and Barrier Islands* section.

**Jekyll Island - Causeway**
*A Colonial Coast Birding Trail Site*
The Jekyll Island Causeway bisects a portion of the Marshes of Glynn, which are rich Spartina marshes and mudflats made famous by Georgia poet Sidney Lanier. Home to a remarkable diversity of birds and other wildlife, the marshes can easily be viewed from the causeway. Two particular sites are identified as outstanding places for bird viewing and are noted by the Colonial Coast Birding Trail signs.

**Types of Birds:** shorebirds, wading birds, birds of prey, waterfowl

**Best Birding Seasons:** shorebirds (all), wading birds (all), birds of prey (all) waterfowl (winter)

**Specialties:** osprey, bald eagle, clapper rail, northern harrier, roseate spoonbill, red knot, black-necked stilt, white ibis and wood stork

**What to Look For:** In mid-summer through spring, low tide is the best time to see shorebirds. This is also the time to look for nesting ospreys. In the summer, look for roseate spoonbills. In the winter, search for northern harriers flying low over the marsh. Year-round, listen for clapper rails and marsh wrens in the salt marshes.

For directions and detailed information, please see Jekyll Island in the *Beaches and Barrier Islands* section.

**Jekyll Island – North End Beach**
*A Colonial Coast Birding Trail Site*
The North End Beach of Jekyll Island on the mouth of St. Simons Sound has a mix of beach, forest and saltwater habitats that provide superb bird viewing. The beach is more limited than at the south end and walking southward may be difficult at high tide.
Types of Birds: songbirds, shorebirds, wading birds, waterfowl, gull-like birds

Best Birding Seasons: songbirds (all), shorebirds (all), wading birds (all), waterfowl (winter), gull-like birds (all)

Specialties: least tern, red-throated loon, scoters, American oystercatcher, black skimmer

What to Look For: During spring and fall, look for migrating warblers. In winter thousands of scoters and scaup congregate in rafts just offshore. Throughout the year ospreys are common. Both common and red-throated loons can be seen just off the beach.

For directions and detailed information, please see Clam Creek Picnic Area and North End Beach Access, Jekyll Island in the Beaches and Barrier Islands section.

Jekyll Island – South End Beach
A Colonial Coast Birding Trail Site
At the southern tip of Jekyll Island, the beach access is via a boardwalk through sand dune habitat. Visitors can spot warblers, kinglets and other songbirds from this vantage point. Once on the beach, walk south (to the right).

Types of Birds: shorebirds, wading birds, waterfowl, gull-like birds

Best Birding Seasons: shorebirds (all), wading birds (all), waterfowl (winter), gull-like birds (all)

Specialties: black skimmer, American oystercatcher, marbled godwit, jaegers, south polar skua, northern gannet, piping plover, glaucous gull

What to Look For: In mid-summer through spring around high tide, look for shorebirds. Look for scoters, loons, mergansers, buffleheads and other waterfowl swimming offshore. Rare gull species are sometimes found here. Note: do not disturb resting birds; give them a wide berth.

A parking fee on Jekyll Island is required. For directions and detailed information, please see Jekyll Island Soccer Complex and South End Beach Access, Jekyll Island in the Beaches and Barrier Islands section.

Tideland Nature Center, Jekyll Island
Tideland offers nature walks and marsh kayak tours for individuals and families. Canoe and kayak rentals are available. You may also access the Ski Rixen pond from here.

Phone: (912) 635-5032

Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Saturday – Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Wildlife Viewing and Walking Trails

Directions: After the parking fee collection booth on Jekyll Island, turn right onto S. River View Drive. Then turn right at the sign for Tidelands Nature Center (about 0.5 miles).

A parking fee on Jekyll Island is required. For directions and detailed information, please see Jekyll Island in the Beaches and Barrier Islands section.

Wildlife Marsh Trail/Bike Path, Jekyll Island
This nature trail/bike path is approximately one mile long and passes through the salt marsh. The path ends at Clam Creek Picnic Area at the north end of Jekyll near the fishing pier. This site is an excellent spot for bird watching and photography. The parking lot can hold 5 to 6 cars.

Directions: On Jekyll Island, turn left onto Beach View Drive and continue about 4 miles north of the Convention Center. The path’s parking lot is on the left (trail is across the street).

A parking fee is required to access Jekyll Island. For directions and detailed information, please see Jekyll Island in the Beaches and Barrier Islands section.

Earthday Nature Trail
This self-guided, informative trail winds through two small salt marsh hammocks adjacent to the Department of Natural Resources’ Coastal Regional Headquarters. An orientation pavilion and plaques found throughout the trail provide information about the marsh and hammock habitat and wildlife. The site features a deck from which to view an osprey nesting platform, an observation tower over the marsh and picnic tables. No pets are permitted. Restrooms and water fountains are available for public use in the Department of Natural Resources’ Coastal Regional Headquarters building on Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. only.

Hours: Open daily during daylight hours

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 29 to U.S. Hwy 17 North and continue approximately 6 miles. Immediately after crossing the Sidney Lanier Bridge turn left onto Conservation Way and follow this road into the parking lot. The entrance to the trail is to the left of the U.S. Coast Guard Building.

Blythe Island Regional Park Dixie Trail
The Blythe Island Regional Park maintains an excellent hiking and nature trail through hardwood forests and palmetto scrub flatwoods. The park also offers a small freshwater pond around which a variety of wading birds may be observed feeding throughout the year. The park features a public marina with hoist, boat ramp access to the South Brunswick River and Turtle River and a fishing pier. Ice, bait and a campground are also available.

Phone: (800) 343-7855; (912) 261-3805

Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., boat launch closes at 4:00 p.m. (Closed on Thursdays).
**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 29 and go west on U.S. Hwy 82 for 0.6 miles. Then turn right onto GA Hwy 303 (Blythe Island Highway) toward Brunswick. After traveling 2.7 miles, turn right onto Sam Coffer Road and follow it for about 1.3 miles to the marina and boat ramp.

**Paulk’s Pasture Wildlife Management Area**

Paulk’s Pasture is a timber-managed area with several small but productive birding sites that include a wet power line cut and two freshwater swamps. The swamps are located on the main road in the wildlife management area at 3.6 miles and 5.2 miles west of the main entrance on U.S. Hwy 341.

**What to look for:** In winter, look for Henslow’s sparrows and sedge wrens, especially in the power-line cut. Watch for Prothonotary warbler, Swainson’s warbler, white-breasted nuthatch and yellow-crowned night heron. Search for sparrows and other early successional species in forested wetlands and many clear-cut areas. Pitcher plants and other pine-flat woods plants grow in the power-line cut. Some areas are wet, so rubber boots are recommended.

**Phone:** (912) 262-3173

**Admission:** None

**Hours:** Open daily during daylight hours

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 36-B to U.S. Hwy 341 North. Proceed approximately 10 miles and watch for the sign on the left.

**Brantley County**

**Little Satilla Wildlife Management Area**

Two entrances to the Wildlife Management Area (WMA) allow hiking trail access. There are no facilities.

**Phone:** (912) 262-3173

**First entrance:** Located off of GA Hwy 32 about 4.0 miles west of Hortense on the right (notice the sign “Last Chance for Produce”). Travel down the dirt road for 0.3 miles, then bear right at the fork and continue for about 0.5 miles until the road ends. Turn left and stay on the Tanger Road for the WMA access.

**Second entrance:** Located off of GA Hwy 32 about 5.0 miles west of Hortense on the right (look for WMA sign & white fence gate). The entrance is next to the power lines. Parking is limited.
Camden County

Crooked River State Park
*A Colonial Coast Birding Trail Site*
Located on the scenic banks of the Crooked River, this 500-acre state park is home to several habitats including pine flatwoods, salt marsh and maritime forest.

*Types of Birds:* birds of prey, shorebirds, wading birds, songbirds, waterfowl

*Best Birding Seasons:* birds of prey (all), shorebirds (fall and winter), songbirds (all), wading birds (all), waterfowl (winter)

*Specialties:* osprey, bald eagle, wood stork, painted bunting

*What to Look For:* In Crooked River, look for mergansers and other ducks. In spring and summer, search for large platform nests of osprey. In spring and fall, look for migrating warblers. In spring and summer, watch and listen for painted buntings. In early to mid-summer, watch for migrating shorebirds. Listen for owls at sunset. Visitors may also look for gopher tortoise burrows, armadillos and deer or visit the tabby ruins of the McIntosh Sugar Mill.

**Phone:** (912) 882-5256

**Admission:**
- Daily parking fee $3.00 per vehicle
- Annual ParkPass* $30.00
  * valid at all State Parks in Georgia

**Hours:** 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. daily

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 3 to GA Hwy 40 East. Follow GA Hwy 40 East to the junction of Spur 40 and turn left. Travel north approximately two miles. The entrance to the park is on the right side of the road. Look for the brown state park signs.

Cumberland Island National Seashore
*A Colonial Coast Birding Trail Site*
Most of the 36,000 acres of Cumberland Island National Seashore are undeveloped. The island is home to a remarkable diversity of wildlife and plant communities. A total of 322 avian species have been spotted on the island. The western side of Cumberland Island is bordered by extensive salt marsh while the eastern side consists of 16 miles of pristine sandy beaches. Access is by ferry or private boat. There are no stores on the island, so visitors must bring food, beverages, sunscreen, rain gear and other necessities. Private boaters may dock at Sea Camp or Plum Orchard. Overnight boaters must anchor offshore.

Visitors may view feral horses, alligators and other wildlife, tour historic mansions, ruins and a history museum and traverse nature trails. There is walk-in camping at
Sea Camp and four backcountry sites. Over 50 miles of trails cross the island through historic areas, maritime forest, interior wetland, marsh and beach.

**Types of Birds:** songbirds, shorebirds, wading birds, waterfowl, gull-like birds

**Best Birding Seasons:** songbirds (spring and fall), shorebirds (all), wading birds (all), waterfowl (winter), gull-like birds (all)

**Specialties:** peregrine falcon, painted bunting, red knot, black skimmer, warblers

**What to Look For:** During fall migration, look for peregrine falcons, a protected species in Georgia. In fall and spring, watch for migrating warblers. In summer, painted buntings are common on the beach. Summer, winter, and spring are the best seasons to view shorebirds. In winter, look for piping plovers, a federally listed threatened species. Excellent spots include the south end at Pelican Banks and on the marsh edge of interior wetlands.

For directions and detailed information, please see Cumberland Island in the *Beaches and Barrier Islands* section.

**Charlton County**

**Okefenokee Swamp & National Wildlife Refuge**  
*A Colonial Coast Birding Trail Site*

The Okefenokee is one of the world’s largest intact freshwater ecosystems. The name of the swamp is derived from the Native American words “Land of the Trembling Earth” due to the movement of unstable peat masses (averaging 5 – 10 feet thick) as they are walked upon. The peat is also responsible for the tea-colored water. As freshwater mixes with decaying peat, tannins leach out giving the swamp its characteristic black water. The vast 396,000 acre refuge is home to more than 234 avian species and is known for its populations of alligators and black bears. The Okefenokee hosts a variety of habitats including lakes, waterways, prairie wetlands, peat bog islands and uplands which support native longleaf pine and wiregrass communities.

Native Americans inhabited the Okefenokee as early as 2500 B.C., and the first European settlement was a Spanish mission established in 1626. In 1891, the Suwanee Canal Company purchased the swamp and attempted to drain it into the St. Marys River in order to create agricultural land. Attempts at this daunting task failed, so the company sold the property to a private owner who began a massive cypress logging operation in 1909. More than 431 million board feet of timber were removed from the swamp by the time logging ceased in 1927. The national wildlife refuge was established in 1936 to protect this unique ecosystem. The following four entrances in the coastal counties provide visitors with access to the Okefenokee:

**Suwanee Canal Recreation Area**  
*A Colonial Coast Birding Trail Site*

The recreation area is operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is adjacent to the Okefenokee Swamp. Visitors to the recreation area may investigate the restored
Wildlife Viewing and Walking Trails

Chesser Homestead, take a boat trip into the swamp, canoe or camp in the refuge or hike on 4.5 miles of trail. The area features a boardwalk trail and an observation tower.

**Best Birding Seasons:** songbirds (all), waterfowl (winter), birds of prey (all), wading birds (all)

**Specialties:** sandhill crane, red-cockaded woodpecker, prothonotary warbler, northern parula, Bachman’s sparrow

**What to Look For:** Winter is the best time to view sandhill cranes. Spring is ideal for viewing endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers along Swamp Island Drive as they bring food to their young, who live inside cavities in live pine trees. The Swamp Walk is a 0.75 mile long boardwalk that ends at a 30-foot tall observation tower providing views to a wetland prairie with wading birds, waterfowl and alligators.

**Phone:** (912) 496-7156

**Admission:**

<table>
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**Tours**

<table>
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<tr>
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**Hours:**

- March – September 10th: 6:00 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. daily
- Off-season: 7:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. daily
- Closed Christmas Day

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 2 to GA Hwy 40. Proceed west on GA Hwy 40 to Folkston. Turn onto GA Hwy 23/GA Hwy 121 South for 7 miles, turn right onto Spur 121, and follow the signs for 4 miles to the recreation area.

**Laura S. Walker State Park**

This park, operated by the Georgia Parks and Historic Sites Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, contains three miles of walking trails along the lakeshore and a nature trail with chances to view alligators, the shy gopher tortoise, carnivorous pitcher plants, numerous oak varieties, saw palmettos, northern flickers, warblers, owls and great blue herons.

**Phone:** (912) 287-4900

**Admission:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Daily parking fee</th>
<th>$3.00 per vehicle</th>
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| Annual ParkPass* | $30.00 |

* valid at all State Parks in Georgia

**Hours:** Park 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.; Office 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 a.m.
Directions: The park is located 9 miles southeast of Waycross on GA Hwy 177. From I-95 take Exit 29 to U.S. Hwy 82 West. After approximately 40 miles, turn left (south) onto GA Hwy 177 (Laura Walker Road) and travel 2.4 miles to the park entrance.

Okefenokee Swamp Park
The Okefenokee Swamp Park is privately owned by a non-profit organization. The park features the Pogo and the Walt Kelly Museum and boat tours of the Swamp. The park contains wilderness walkways, a boardwalk, a 90 foot tower and a 1.3 mile nature trail from which to view the swamp, alligators, birds and other wildlife.

Phone: (912) 283-0583

Admission:
- Adults $12.00
- Children (3-11) $11.00
- Seniors (62 and over) $11.00
- AAA (with ID) $9.00
- Active Military (with ID) $11.00

Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. daily
- Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Directions: Located 8 miles south of Waycross on GA Hwy 177. From I-95 take Exit 29 to U.S. Hwy 82 West. After approximately 40 miles, turn left (south) onto GA Hwy 177 (Laura Walker Road). Pass Laura S. Walker State Park and continue on GA Hwy 177 to the Okefenokee Swamp Park (approximately 11.4 miles from U.S. Hwy 82).

Stephen C. Foster State Park
Stephen C. Foster State Park is located almost in the center of the Okefenokee Swamp. Visitors must drive around the western edge of the Okefenokee, via the town of Fargo, to access the park’s entrance. Though remote, this park is an intriguing area and offers great opportunities for guided swamp tours, boat rentals (canoes and motorized boats), fishing and over-night stays in rental cottages or primitive camping. The elevated Trembling Earth Nature Trail (1.5 miles) is an excellent way to look for wildlife. The Suwannee River Visitor Center, located off U.S. Hwy. 441 at the Suwannee River bridge, showcases exhibits about alligators, cypress trees and other Okefenokee specialties in a building constructed from recycled materials.

Phone: Park (912) 637-5274; Reservations (800) 864-7275

Admission:
- Parking fee (valid for 7 days) $5.00 per vehicle
- Annual ParkPass* $30.00
  * valid at all State Parks in Georgia
Hours:  

*Park* (Gates locked at closing)
- Fall/Winter: 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Spring/Summer: 6:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

*Office*
- Fall/Winter: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Spring/Summer: 7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 29 to U.S. Hwy 82 West. Travel approximately 48 miles to Waycross. Turn left onto U.S. Hwy 84 West and continue for approximately 26.6 miles. Turn left onto U.S. Hwy 441 South and travel to Fargo. Take GA Hwy 177 North to the park entrance (approximately 18 miles northeast of Fargo).
Cultural and Historic Sites

Introduction

On November 17, 1732, General James Oglethorpe set off from London for the new colony of Georgia. Accompanying Oglethorpe aboard the ANN, a 200-foot frigate crewed by 20 sailors, were Pastor Henry Herbert, Doctor William Cox, Captain John Thomas and 114 men, women and children. After voyaging 61 days the group arrived in Charles Town, South Carolina, where Oglethorpe disembarked and met with Robert Johnson, the Royal Governor. Johnson confirmed to Oglethorpe that he wished the Georgia colony to be established as a buffer between South Carolina and the Spanish at St. Augustine, but more importantly, Johnson wanted protection from the Yemassee Creek Indians that had attacked the Carolina seters earlier that year. General Oglethorpe left his colonists in Port Royal and ventured off to locate a suitable site for settlement. He was escorted by Colonel William Bull of Charleston and Bull’s recently formed Georgia Guard, called the Tythings. The party soon returned to Charles Town, and on January 30, 1733, Oglethorpe and 116 colonists set sail in a sloop and four smaller boats for the Savannah River inlet. The following day the party landed and scrambled from the riverbank up onto a cleared bluff overlooking a large Yamacraw Creek Indian village a short distance away. It was on that Savannah River bluff that the city of Savannah and the colony of Georgia were founded. Within days, Colonel Bull and General Oglethorpe began to lay out the city of Savannah. Much of this initial layout remains intact. The original plan called for four squares, which would eventually expand to 24 squares, surrounded by a network of interconnecting streets. Of these 24 squares, 21 remain intact today.

The Georgia coast was occupied by American peoples long before the arrival of the English settlers. The earliest evidence of human inhabitation was discovered on the Georgia side of the Savannah River between Augusta and Savannah. Archaeologists found flint tools at that site believed to date to 16,000-18,000 BC. If so, these flakes are the oldest tools known on the North American continent. Eventually, these archaic peoples were replaced by more advanced tribes associated with the Creek Nation. The people of the Creek Nation displayed many customs similar to the earlier Mound Builders from the Mississippi Valley, and due to these similarities, the loose confederation of tribes has been described as the remnants of the Mound Builder culture. Their true origin is as yet undetermined. From the early 1600’s, the Creeks controlled all or part of what is now Georgia. Like their predecessors, the Creeks lived near rivers and relied heavily on agriculture for sustenance. The coast and its barrier islands provided, then and now, plentiful game, fish, shellfish and other resources necessary for a fruitful existence.

Touring Coastal Georgia, one finds a region laced with recorded history and the fascinating cultures upon which that history is based. Residents of the Georgia coast figured prominently in the founding of our nation. Three signers of the Declaration of Independence made their home on the coast, a fact contributing to the naming of Liberty County. Planters made their fortunes from rice, indigo and world famous sea island cotton. Remnants of those plantations and many of the descendants of the figures who are prominent in American History remain on the coast. Today, the opportunity to experience many of the state’s past cultures, both sad and heroic, and to view sites where
Georgia history comes alive are possible thanks to the efforts of the Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites Division, the U.S. National Parks Service, municipal and county governments and the many historical societies and other not-for-profit organizations throughout the coast. The following chapter highlights many of these opportunities.

**Chatham County**

**Historic Savannah**

In 1733, General James Oglethorpe and Colonel William Bull, along with 116 British colonists, settled on a bluff on the Savannah River. That settlement was to become the city of Savannah, the first colonial and state capital of Georgia. Today, the city’s downtown area is one of the largest National Historic Landmark areas in the United States. The historic district runs south from River Street along the Savannah River to the 30 acre Forsyth Park. The city follows the “Oglethorpe Plan” where commercial and residential buildings surround a public square initially intended for colonists to practice military exercises. Savannah landmarks include:

**City Market** — a restored central market featuring antique and souvenir shops, small eateries, art galleries, two large outdoor plazas and entertainment such as carriage or trolley tours.

**Historic homes**

*The Pink House, 23 Abercorn Street.* Built in 1771 and glowing pink (its antique bricks show through a protective covering of stucco), this house has functioned as a private home, a bank, a tearoom and headquarters for one of Sherman’s generals.

*The Sorrel Weed House, 6 West Harris Street.* Built in 1840, this structure is a great example of Greek Revival architecture. It was home to General Gilbert Moxley Sorrel, the youngest General in the Confederate States of America.

*The Green-Meldrin House, 1 West Macon Street.* This house was designed by New York architect John Norris and built in 1850 for cotton merchant Charles Green. Judge Peter Meldrin bought the house in 1892, and his heirs sold it to St. John’s Episcopal Church to use as a parish house. General Sherman lived here after taking the city in 1864.

*The Owens-Thomas House, 124 Abercorn Street.* The house was designed by architect William Jay at the young age of 24. The residence was built from 1816 to 1819 for cotton merchant Richard Richardson and his wife Francis Bolton, the sister-in-law of William Jay. In 1825, the Marquis de Lafayette, a Revolutionary War hero, was a guest. In 1830, George Welchman Owens, congressman, lawyer and one-time mayor of Savannah, purchased the house from the Bank of the United States for $10,000. The property remained in the Owens family until 1951 when Owens’ granddaughter Margaret Thomas bequeathed it to the Telfair Academy of Arts and Sciences, now the Telfair Museum of Art.
The Wayne-Gordon House, 10 East Oglethorpe Street. This house is the birthplace of Juliette Gordon Low, founder of Girl Scouts of the USA. Visitors can take guided tours of the restored house which reflects the Victorian elegance of the 1880’s and includes original furniture belonging to the Gordon family and artwork by Juliette Gordon Low. Interactive programs introduce visitors to the early years of Girl Scouting.

**Historic cemeteries**

*Colonial Park Cemetery* dates back to the English colony of Georgia.

*Laurel Grove Cemetery* contains graves of Confederate soldiers and African American slaves.

*Bonaventure Cemetery* was originally a plantation. The cemetery became famous when it was featured in the book *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* written by John Berend and later adapted into a movie directed by Clint Eastwood.

**Telfair Museum** - The Telfair Museum of Art, the South’s first public art museum, opened in 1886 when the Telfair family home was opened to the public as an art museum and school. The Telfair Museum is comprised of three buildings: the original Telfair Academy of Arts and Sciences building, the Owens-Thomas House and the Jepson Center for the Arts. The former two are National Historic Landmarks and the latter is a newly completed addition to the museum that includes the Telfair Café. Currently among the city’s most-visited attractions, the museum has a diverse schedule of art, culture and historical exhibitions and programs.

The three buildings are separately located. **Telfair Academy**: 121 Barnard Street, on the northwest corner of Barnard and State Streets. **Jepson Center**: 207 W. York Street, on the corner of Barnard and W. York Streets. **Owens-Thomas House**: 124 Abercorn Street, on the northeast corner of Abercorn and E. State Streets (enter at the Carriage House on E. President Street).

Admission for non-members: (at each site) Adults $10.00; Seniors/AAA $8.00; Students $5.00; Children (ages 5-12) $4.00. Family, Group and Combination tickets are available.

Operating hours of the museum vary among the buildings. The Telfair Academy and the Jepson Center are closed on Tuesdays. Call (912) 790-8800 for operating hours.

**Savannah Tour of Homes**. This annual spring event offers self-guided walking tours through private homes and gardens in Savannah’s National Landmark Historic District.

**Old Fort Jackson**

On the Savannah River, about three miles downstream from the city of Savannah, stands Fort James Jackson, known locally as Old Fort Jackson. The 200-year-old fort
The Old Fort Jackson is the oldest standing brick fortification in Georgia. Authorized by President Thomas Jefferson in 1808, the fort was built on the site of an already-existing earthen fort constructed in 1776 to protect Savannah from naval attack. It was named for Georgia Governor and Revolutionary War soldier James Jackson. The fort is a National Historic Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Sites. The fort is also one of only eight remaining Second System fortifications (a series of forts built before the War of 1812) in the United States. Old Fort Jackson served as headquarters for the Confederate Savannah River defenses during the American Civil War and was finally decommissioned in 1905.

The fort is owned by the state of Georgia and operated by the non-profit Coastal Heritage Society. Old Fort Jackson has daily cannon firing demonstrations in the summer and is the only historic fort in the United States that delivers cannon salutes to passing military vessels. Educational programs for students and scout groups are available by reservation. Historical Theme Dinners for groups of 25 people or more are available by advance reservation. Contact (912) 232-3945 for menus, prices and availability.

Phone: (912) 232-3945

Admission:

- Adults $4.25
- Students $3.75
- Seniors (55 and over) $3.75
- Military and AAA $3.75

Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. daily
Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day.

Directions: Take I-95 to I-16 East. Follow I-16 to the end and merge onto Martin Luther King Boulevard. Turn right onto E. Liberty Street and left onto E. Broad Street. Turn right onto E. President Street (Islands Expressway). Turn left onto Woodcock Road and right onto Old Fort Jackson Road. Follow the signs to the fort.

The Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum
Organized in Savannah, Georgia on January 28, 1942 in direct response to Pearl Harbor, the Mighty Eighth Air Force grew to more than 350,000 members. The Eighth suffered half of the U.S. Army Air Force casualties in World War II. The 90,000 square foot museum complex honors the men and women who served in or supported this air armada. The museum is divided into galleries that group information either by time or location. The state-of-the-art, interactive museum begins with the events leading to World War II. The largest exhibit is the Combat Gallery, which displays restored and replicated planes used by the Mighty Eighth and their opponents. In addition to the exhibits, the museum includes a library, veteran’s database, oral histories, research services, archive and artifact collection (accessible by appointment only), as well as a museum store, pub and Chapel of the Fallen Eagles & Memorial Gardens.
Phone: (912) 748-8888

Admission:

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<th>Category</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Children (6 – 12)</td>
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</tr>
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Hours:

- **Museum**
  - Daily: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

- **Library**
  - Monday – Friday: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Closed New Years Day, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 102 (Pooler and Garden City) onto U.S. Hwy 80 East. Take the first left onto Bourne Avenue and the museum is on the left. Parking is ample and free.

Wormsloe Historic Site

The Wormsloe Historic Site is located on the former Wormsloe Plantation, a combination colonial plantation and fort along the Skidaway River. Wormsloe was established in 1737 by Noble Jones, one of the original British settlers who arrived with General James Oglethorpe in 1733. Jones reared his family at Wormsloe and commanded a company of Marines from the plantation who were charged with defending Georgia’s coast. Strategically located along the Skidaway River, Wormsloe was in an ideal position to protect Savannah from a “back-door” attack by boats traveling upriver from the south. Jones built a fortified home at Wormsloe constructed of tabby, a building material made from a mixture of limestone, sand, water and oyster shells. The remnants of this house are one of the only remaining examples of a fortified house, which was a common domestic design throughout early coastal Georgia. Jones protected the cypress and oak forests of his property and never cultivated the land. His botanical interest resulted in experimental gardens that were a local attraction, and were likely written of by John and William Bartram in 1765. The site includes a plantation house built by Jones’ grandson in 1828, a detached library, the ruins of the fortified house, a mile-long drive bordered by large live oaks, Confederate earthworks, a scenic nature trail, a small family graveyard, a “shell midden” from the aboriginal Indians of the Late Archaic period (around 2000 BC), a museum and a small gift shop. During special programs in the living history area, staff dressed in period costume demonstrate skills and crafts of the early settlers. In early February of each year, the site hosts “Colonial Faire and Muster” highlighting 18th century life. The museum and most of the trails are handicapped accessible. Wheelchairs are available upon request.

Special Event Programs Include:

- February - Georgia Day Program
- May - War of Jenkins Ear
- September - Tools and Skills that Built a Colony
- December - Christmas at Wormsloe
Phone: (912) 353-3023

Admission:
Adults $4.00
Children (18 – 6) $2.50

Hours:
Tuesday – Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 2:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Closed Monday (except holidays), Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s Day

Directions: From I-95 take I-16 East towards Savannah. Take Exit 164A onto the Lynes Parkway (I-516) East. The parkway will become Derenne Avenue. Merge onto Truman Parkway South. Take the Montgomery Cross Road ramp and turn left onto E. Montgomery Cross Road. Continue until the road ends and turn right onto Skidaway Road. Proceed approximately 1 mile to the plantation. Watch for the brown State Historic Park signs.

Fort Pulaski National Monument
Fort Pulaski is a brick and mortar fort located at the mouth of the Savannah River. The fort was constructed from 1831 until 1845 in response to English attacks on Washington D. C. and Baltimore, Maryland during the War of 1812. The fort was named in honor of the Revolutionary War hero Count Casimir Pulaski who was killed during the battle of Savannah. Robert E. Lee helped engineer the construction of the fort shortly after his graduation from West Point and spent seventeen months there beginning in 1829. Ft. Pulaski served as a Confederate fortress during the American Civil War and was surrendered in April 1862 after suffering 30 hours of bombardment from rifled cannons placed over one mile away. This surrender signaled a turning point in military history, as masonry fortifications could not withstand these new, accurate, long-range weapons.

Today, Fort Pulaski is a 5,600 acre National Monument operated by the National Park Service. The fort is a large-scale outdoor exhibit of historic military architecture featuring the main structure and outlying works. The Visitor Center includes exhibits about the history of the fort beginning with its construction and about the significance of the battle in April 1862. The exhibits also display archeological objects recovered from within the fort. Guided tours led by National Park Rangers are conducted Monday through Friday at 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Tour times may vary on Saturdays. Tours meet inside the fort and usually last 45 minutes. Visitors will learn about one of the nation’s finest examples of a seacoast fort, the construction and engineering of Fort Pulaski, Civil War technology, rifled cannons, general fort life and the Battle for Fort Pulaski in 1862.

The Fort Pulaski site includes McQueen’s Island, Cockspur Island and the adjacent salt marsh. These diverse habitats are home to alligators, deer and more than 200 species of birds.
Cultural and Historic Sites

Phone: (912) 786-5787

Admission:  
- Adults: $3.00
- Children (under 16): Free

Receipt is valid for additional 6 days of visitation.

Hours:  
Summer (Memorial Day – Labor Day)  
- Visitor Center: 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Fort: 8:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
- Bridge Gate: Closes by 7:00 p.m.

Off-season  
- Visitor Center: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Fort: 8:30 a.m. – 5:15 p.m.
- Bridge Gate: Closes by 5:30 p.m.

Closed on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day

Directions: Take I-95 to I-16 East. Follow I-16 to the end and merge onto Martin Luther King Boulevard. Turn right onto E. Liberty Street and left onto E. Broad Street. Turn right onto E. President Street (Islands Expressway). Keep left over the overpass to merge onto U.S. Hwy 80 East. Follow the signs to Fort Pulaski (located on the left side of the roadway).

Tybee Island Light Station and Museum
The original Tybee Island Lighthouse was ordered by General James Oglethorpe in 1732. The Tybee Island Light is one of America’s most intact historic light stations with all of its support buildings still standing on the five acre site. Though rebuilt several times, the current light station displays its 1916 day mark (a navigational aid distinctively marked for visibility by day) and a nine feet tall First Order Fresnel lens. The lighthouse stands 154 feet high and there is no elevator. Hardy visitors can climb the 178 stairs for spectacular coastal views. The Head Keepers Cottage has recently been restored to recreate the original structure and interior based on written records, old photographs and memories of the last lighthouse keeper. Tours are self-guided with volunteers present to answer questions. For the protection of the historical area, food, drink, gum and backpacks are not allowed.

Phone: (912) 786-5801

Admission:  
- Adults: $6.00
- Children (6 – 17): $5.00
- Seniors (62 and over): $5.00
- Military (with ID): $5.00
- Coast Guard (with ID): Free

An adult must accompany children at all times while visiting the site.

Hours:  
9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.  Closed Tuesday
Closed St. Patrick’s Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Day and New Years Day
Directions: Tybee Island is located 18 miles east of Savannah. Take I-95 to I-16 East. Follow I-16 to the end and merge onto Martin Luther King Boulevard. Turn right onto E. Liberty Street and left onto E. Broad Street. Turn right onto E. President Street (Islands Expressway). Keep left over the overpass to merge onto U.S. Hwy 80 East and follow the highway to Tybee Island. Once you reach the island, U.S. Hwy 80 becomes Butler Avenue. At the first stoplight take a left onto N. Campbell Avenue. Turn left again when N. Campbell Avenue dead ends into Van Horne Drive. After a half block, turn right onto Meddin Street. Drive past the Tybee Island Light Station to the free public parking available on the north side (beside the gift shop).

Effingham County

Ebenezer Town Site - Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church
In 1731, the Catholic archbishop and prince of Salzburg (now Austria) issued an Edict of Expulsion that forced 20,000 Protestants from their homes. The Protestants had three months to dispose of their property and leave the country. Persons who held no property were given eight days to leave. A majority of these outcasts, referred to as Salzburgers, settled in East Prussia and Holland; however, about 300 of the Salzburgers made their way to the new English colony of Georgia. The first group sailed from England in 1734 and arrived in Savannah, where they were met by General James Oglethorpe, the founder of the Georgia colony. The Salzburgers were assigned land for homes about 25 miles up the Savannah River in a low-lying area on Ebenezer Creek. Subsequent ships brought more of the original exiles as well as other European settlers from German-speaking nations who became generically identified as Salzburgers.

The Salzburgers established the Jerusalem Church (later Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church) and administered the settlement of Ebenezer with a strong religious fervor. During the Revolutionary War, the town was burned by the British and never recovered. The Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church is the only remaining building of the colonial town. Completed in 1769 from handmade bricks, the church is the oldest continuing Lutheran congregation in America worshipping in the same building. Visitors to the town of Ebenezer can explore the historic Jerusalem Lutheran Church and Cemetery, the Old Parsonage built in 1835, and the Salzburger Home, which was built in 1755 and now houses the Georgia Salzburger Museum. The museum displays exhibits on Georgia colonial frontier life and the banishment of the Salzburgers from Europe. Books and gifts are available in the Museum Store. The Salzburger Heritage Day Festival is held annually on Labor Day.

Phone: (912) 754-7001

Hours: 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday or by appointment

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 109 and travel north to Rincon. Turn right on Ebenezer Road.
Effingham Museum and Living History Site

Built in 1934, the original two-story brick jail now houses the Effingham Museum and is on the National Registry of Historic Places. In addition to a large collection of artifacts, the museum features a research library that focuses on genealogical history (mostly history of Georgia Salzburgers and allied families). The nearby Seckinger-Bridgers House interprets early life in Effingham County.

Admission:

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<th>Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>Students (6 – 18)</td>
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Hours:

- Monday – Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday: 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Closed Monday (except holidays), Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s Day

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 109 and turn west onto GA Hwy 21 and travel to Springfield. Turn right onto Crawford Street and then left onto Pine Street. The museum is located at 1002 Pine Street, Springfield, GA 31329.

Historic City of Guyton

With roots as a railroad town, Guyton became an affluent community providing refuge from summer heat and insects for Savannah residents, including the family of Juliette Gordon Low, founder of the Girl Scouts of America. Now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, many architectural styles are showcased in the Guyton-Whitesville Historic District. The Confederacy built a hospital in Guyton, and 26 Confederate soldiers are buried in the local cemetery. When General Sherman marched from Atlanta to Savannah he came through Guyton with his main body of troops and destroyed the train depot and tracks. Visitors may enter several of the historic houses during the annual tour of homes in December.

Directions: The town is located at the junction of GA Hwy 119 and GA Hwy 17.

Bryan County

Henry Ford Kindergarten

Henry and Clara Ford chose the city of Richmond Hill as their winter home, and the city benefited from the Ford’s many charitable works. Dating from 1937, the kindergarten was a voluntary project of Mr. and Mrs. Ford, who opened the school because the local school system did not provide pre-school education at that time. Serving 25 – 40 children per year, it was the first kindergarten in Bryan County. The structure now serves as the Richmond Hill Historical Society’s Museum with displays of the Colonial Era, Revolutionary War Era, Civil War Era and the Henry Ford Era.

Phone: (912) 756-3697
Hours: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday – Saturday

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 90 and travel east on GA Hwy 144 to Richmond Hill. The museum is located to the right on the corner of Ford Avenue and Timber Trail Road at 11460 Ford Avenue.

The Old Community Center
The philanthropic efforts of Henry and Clara Ford revitalized Richmond Hill; thus, the time period the Fords lived in the area is generally referred to as the Ford Era. The Ford’s established the Community Center to teach young adults from throughout Bryan County homemaking skills and social etiquette in a dormitory setting. A funeral home now occupies the structure.

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 90 and travel east on GA Hwy 144 to Richmond Hill. The center is located at 10512 Ford Avenue.

St. Anne’s Catholic Church
St. Anne’s was fashioned after a Massachusetts meetinghouse and has a distinctive Christopher-Wren style steeple. Non-denominational services were held here during the Ford Era when the church was known as the Martha-Mary Chapel in memory of Henry and Clara Ford’s mothers, Martha Ford and Mary Bryant.

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 90 and travel east on GA Hwy 144 to Richmond Hill. The church is located at 10550 Ford Avenue.

Fort McAllister Historic Park
Located on the bank of the Ogeechee River (south of Savannah) this park is the home of the best-preserved earthwork fortification of the Confederacy. Fort McAllister guarded the Ogeechee until late 1864 when General William T. Sherman’s 60,000-man army began to close on Savannah. Needing control of the Ogeechee River to open supply lines, Sherman dispatched a Union division to cross Bryan’s Neck and attack Fort McAllister overland from the rear. Though the sand and mud earthworks had survived seven attacks by Union ironclads, the fort was not constructed to withstand a land attack and fell after fifteen minutes of intense combat. Sherman’s March to the Sea ended as the Ogeechee now lay open. Within a week, the city of Savannah became the Union’s prize at the close of the western campaign to split the Confederacy. The park’s Civil War Museum features an interior designed to resemble a bombproof shelter that houses exhibits, artifacts, a video and a gift shop.

Operated by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources’ State Parks and Historic Sites Division, the park offers tent, trailer and R/V camping accommodations and also three rental cottages. The campground is bordered by Redbird Creek which has a boat ramp and a 4.3 mile nature trail. Fort McAllister is a featured site on the Colonial Coast Birding Trail.

Phone: Park (912) 727-2339
Camping reservations & fees (800) 864-7275
Admission:
Adults $4.00
Children $2.50

Hours:
*Historic Site*
Daily 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

*Office & Museum*
Daily 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 90 to GA Hwy 144 East. Proceed through Richmond Hill and turn left onto Spur 144. Continue on Spur 144 for approximately 4 miles to the fort.

**Liberty County**

**Dorchester Academy**
This original post-Civil War school was built in the 1870’s by the American Missionary Association to educate former slaves. By 1917, the school had received full accreditation and had grown to eight buildings and 300 students. During the Civil Rights Era of the 1960’s, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a frequent visitor to Dorchester where he and other instructors used the Dorchester Academy facilities to train teachers in basic voter education and non-violent social change. Dr. King also prepared for his 1963 Birmingham civil rights march at Dorchester. The Dorchester Academy is now an active community center and museum.

**Phone:** (912) 884-2347

**Admission:** None

**Hours:**
Tuesday – Friday 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Saturday 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 76 onto U.S. Hwy 84 West towards Midway. Continue for approximately 6 miles. Dorchester Academy National Historic Site is on the left.

**Midway Congregational Church, Cemetery & Museum**
The city of Midway is situated on the Coastal Highway (U.S. Hwy 17) “midway” between Georgia’s two most important colonial towns, Savannah and Darien. The Midway community was founded in 1752 by English Puritans who migrated to St. John’s Parish, Georgia from Dorchester, South Carolina. Families from England, Scotland and South Carolina soon joined these first settlers. In 1754 they founded the Midway Society, a Congregationalist group in which Christianity and daily living were closely interrelated. The first permanent meetinghouse was erected in 1756, and the first service was held in 1758. Midway became an important and wealthy settlement with an agricultural economy based mainly on rice and indigo. Two of the
three Georgian signers of the Declaration of Independence, Lyman Hall and Button Gwinnett, were from the town. Midway’s St. John’s Parish and the adjacent St. Andrew’s Parish were joined in 1775 to form Liberty County.

The original Midway Congregational Church was destroyed by British troops during the Revolutionary War. It was rebuilt in 1792 in an architectural style reflecting the founders’ Colonial New England Puritan background. Located in a National Historic District, the Midway church still has no heating system or lights. Church services are held in the month of April each year. The Midway Museum adjacent to the church is Georgia’s only colonial museum. The museum educates visitors on the lives of coastal Georgians during the late 18th century and early 19th century.

Midway Cemetery is adjacent to the church and is believed to date back to the 1750’s. The cemetery contains about 1,200 graves including that of Brigadier Daniel Stewart who distinguished himself in the Revolutionary and Indian Wars and was the great grandfather of President Theodore Roosevelt. During General Sherman’s March to the Sea, Union troops corralled cattle in the cemetery and slaughtered them inside the church. The soldiers also used the wooden grave markers for firewood. A map is available in the museum for a self-guided tour.

**Phone:** (912) 884-5837

**Admission:**
- Adults $5.00
- Children $3.00

**Hours:**
- Tuesday – Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Sunday 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Closed Mondays and all holidays

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 76 onto U.S. Hwy 84 West towards Midway. At the traffic light in Midway, turn right onto U.S. Hwy 17. The church and museum are approximately 0.25 miles on the right.

**Fort Morris State Historic Site & Sunbury Cemetery**

Fort Morris is the only surviving Revolutionary earthworks in Georgia. Built in 1776, Fort Morris protected the thriving port of Sunbury from British attack. The British defeated the garrison of more than 200 men in 1778 and occupied the town of Sunbury until 1782 when the troops withdrew. During the War of 1812, the remaining settlers of Sunbury rebuilt some earthworks, renamed it Fort Defiance and occupied the fort until the end of the war. All that remains of the prosperous Georgia community of Sunbury are the remnants of the earthworks at Fort Morris and a portion of the Sunbury Cemetery. The cemetery is the final resting place of members of the Midway Congregational Church with markers dating as far back as 1788.
The Fort Morris State Historic Site is operated by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources’ State Parks and Historic Sites Division. The park offers educational programs, historical research, a visitor center and a one-mile nature trail. Pioneer camping is also available for groups only. Fort Morris is a featured site on the Colonial Coast Birding Trail.

Admission:

- Adults $3.00
- Children $1.75
- Pioneer Campsites (groups only) begin at $15.00

Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m Wednesday – Sunday. Open on Monday Holidays.

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 76 and drive east on the Islands Highway. After 4.8 miles turn left onto Trade Hill Road. Drive approximately 1.3 miles and turn left onto Fort Morris Road. The entrance to the historic site is about 2.4 miles further on the right. To reach Sunbury Cemetery, continue on Fort Morris Road and pass the sign for the boat ramp. The road name then changes to Brigantine Dunmore Road. Turn left onto the unpaved Sunbury Road and then turn right onto Dutchman’s Cove. Follow this road to the cemetery (about 0.7 miles from the Fort Morris entrance).

Seabrook Village
Seabrook Village is an African American living history museum that interprets the African American experience from 1865 (after emancipation) to 1930 (before the Civil Rights Movement). The Seabrook community was established in 1865 by federal land grants that allowed freedmen to settle as landowners on the property they had formerly worked as slaves. Three-hour, fully interactive group tours led by costumed guides are available by reservation.

Phone: (912) 884-7008

Hours: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Tuesday – Saturday

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 76 and drive east on the Islands Highway. After 4.8 miles turn left onto Trade Hill Road. Drive approximately 0.6 miles and the village is located on the left at 660 Trade Hill Road.

LeConte-Woodmanston Rice Plantation & Botanical Gardens
LeConte-Woodmanston Rice Plantation is part of the National Register of Historic Places. Located within historic Bulltown Swamp, a black-water ecosystem unique to the coastal plain, the 1838 home site and botanical gardens are surrounded by rice fields with a unique irrigation system. Woodmanston was home to the LeContes, one of America’s most scientifically prominent families. Trained as a medical doctor, Louis LeConte developed an internationally famous 18th Century botanical garden at Woodmanston. LeConte’s sons, John and Joseph, were both professors at the University of California. John LeConte became acting-president of the University and Joseph LeConte went on to co-find the Sierra Club with his friend, John Muir. Restoration of the garden, home site and rice fields is ongoing by the LeConte-Woodmanston Foundation.
Phone: (912) 884-6500

Admission: $2.00 per person

Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Tuesday – Saturday
Closed Easter, Thanksgiving and December 18 through February 14.
(From February through April call the site for road conditions as the last 1.6 miles of the drive are on dirt roads and heavy rain may wash out the main road)

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 76 onto U.S. Hwy 84 West towards Midway. At the traffic light in Midway, turn left onto U.S. Hwy 17. Travel south approximately 2.5 miles. Turn right onto Barrington Ferry Road. Travel south approximately 4.8 miles until the pavement ends at Sandy Run Road. Continue onto the unpaved portion of Barrington Ferry Road, approximately 1.2 miles, to the historic markers. Turn left onto the smaller dirt road, and continue 1 mile to the site entrance. Follow the Historic Liberty Trail markers (small brown and white signs) along U.S. Hwy 17 and Barrington Ferry Road.

Long County

Ludowici Well Pavilion
The town of Ludowici sprang up from a stop on the Atlantic and Gulf Railroad and became the seat of Long County. Located on the banks of the Altamaha River about 30 miles from the coast, the town was originally named Johnston Station after Allen Johnston whose cotton plantation bordered the railroad. Johnston Station was incorporated on August 23, 1905. Subsequently, the city was renamed after a prominent resident and German immigrant, William Ludowici. In the early 20th century, the local Ludowici Brick and Tile Company employed most of the people living in Long County. The company produced “Ludowici Dixie” tile, a distinctive red-clay roofing material that was popular among builders throughout the southeast. A number of homes displaying the distinctive tiled roofs remain in the city. Recycled Ludowici tile is very popular, and the cost of one tile is said to range from $25 to $50. In 1907, Allen Johnston’s daughter, Mary McQueen, donated land in the center of the town for the placement of an artesian well to provide a pure water source to the community. An open pavilion was constructed around the well and roofed with Ludowici Dixie tile. The site functioned as a town square and today is a public park. The Ludowici Well Pavilion is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 58 onto GA Hwy 57 North (toward Townsend). Follow this highway to Ludowici. The well pavilion is on the corner of McQueen and Main Street in downtown Ludowici.

Jones Creek Baptist Church
Built in 1856 for the express purpose of establishing a Baptist church on the banks of Jones Creek, this historic church’s furnishings include the original rustic pews. The church also contains the balcony from which slaves were permitted to attend services.
Walthourville Presbyterian Church
A National Register Historic Site, the present church was built in 1884 after the original structure from 1820 was destroyed. The original congregation of the Walthourville Presbyterian Church branched off from the old Midway Congregational Church (see Liberty County above).

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 58 onto GA Hwy 57 North (toward Townsend). Follow this highway to Ludowici. From Ludowici, proceed 5 miles north on U.S. Hwy 301. The church is located on the left.

McIntosh County

Vernon Square - Columbus Square and Historic District
The Vernon Square - Columbus Square Historic District in Darien is a National Register Historic District. The town of Darien was established in 1736 and is the second-oldest planned city in Georgia. The historic district covers about 45 acres and follows Oglethorpe’s “Savannah Plan” with two wards, Vernon and Columbus, set up in a grid-like series of squares. West Darien includes late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century residential and commercial buildings and historic archeological sites. The Mentionville area is a distinctive African American neighborhood on the high bluffs of Cathead Creek.

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 67 to U.S. Hwy 17 North. Proceed approximately 7 miles through Riceboro and turn left onto GA Hwy 119, also known as the E.B. Cooper Highway. Continue for approximately 10 miles to Tibet Road and turn left. The church is a short distance ahead.

St. Cyprian’s Church
Saint Cyprian’s Episcopal Church was built in 1876 by freedmen, some of whom formerly worked as slaves on the nearby Butler Island rice plantation. The church was named after a martyred African Bishop.

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 49 onto GA Hwy 251 South. Turn right onto U.S. Hwy 17 South and follow this road into Darien.

Fort King George State Historic Site
In 1721, on the site of the Santo Domingo de Talaje mission, the British built their southern-most outpost in North America, Fort King George. Using old records and drawings, the fort has been reconstructed for public tours. For seven years the cypress blockhouse, barracks and earthen palisade fort were home to His Majesty’s Independent Company led by Col. John Barnwell. In 1736, after the British Army abandoned the fort, Gen. James Oglethorpe brought rugged soldiers from the Scottish Highlands to the site. The Highlanders and their families were instrumental in settling
the area, permanently expelling the Spanish from the Southeast and paving the way for the first steps towards Georgia’s statehood.

Structures include a blockhouse, officers’ quarters, barracks, a guardhouse, moat and palisades. A museum and film offer insights into the Guale Indians, the Santo Domingo de Talaje Mission, Fort King George, the Scots of Darien and 19th century sawmilling when Darien was a major seaport. In addition to the fort and buildings, the remains of three sawmills and tabby ruins are still visible. The Historic Site, operated by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources’ State Parks and Historic Sites Division, also features outdoor exhibits, a nature trail and picnic area.

**Phone:** (912) 437-4770

**Admission:**

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<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
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**Hours:**

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<tr>
<td>Tuesday – Saturday</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>2:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Closed Mondays (except holidays), Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s Day. Closed Tuesday when open on Monday.</td>
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**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 49 to GA Hwy 251 South. Turn right onto U.S. Hwy 17 South and follow this road into Darien. Turn left onto Fort King George Drive and continue to the park. The State Historic Site signs will lead you to the fort.

**Ashantilly House/St. Andrews Cemetery**

The Ashantilly House is a tabby structure built in the early 19th century for Thomas Spalding of Sapelo Island. The property is now administered by the Ashantilly Center, an educational organization that works to conserve the historic and natural environments of the Georgia coast. Adjacent to the house is historic St. Andrews Cemetery which was established by the Spalding family in 1818.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 49 to GA Hwy 251 South. Turn right onto U.S. Hwy 17 South and follow this road into Darien. Turn left on Ridge Road (GA Hwy 99). Turn right onto St. Andrews Cemetery Road. Turn left at the cemetery gate onto the grounds of the Ashantilly Center.

**“The Smallest Church in America”**

A local grocer, Mrs. Agnes Harper, dreamed of a place of meditation and rest for the weary. Her answer was this tiny church which was constructed in 1949 and serves travelers along I-95 and U.S. Hwy 17. With room for only 12 people, services are held every third Sunday.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 67 and travel south on U.S. Hwy 17 approximately 1.2 miles. The church is located to the left, just before Harris Neck Road/GA Hwy 131.
Wayne County

Fort Barrington State Historical Marker
Fort Barrington was once located approximately ten miles west of the Historical Marker. In 1730, the fort was established on the banks of the Altamaha River as a defense against the Spanish and Native Americans. The fort fell to the British during the American Revolutionary War and was then renamed Fort Howe. The fort no longer exists, but the old military road, which once ran between Savannah and Fort Barrington, is still known as the Old Barrington Road. The Barrington ferry, located near the fort, was an important ferry crossing from colonial times until the early 1900’s. Notably, the fort was visited by John and William Bartram in 1765.

Directions: Take I-95 to GA Hwy 57 and travel north (towards Ludowici). Drive 3.7 miles past Townsend and the marker is located several yards from the McIntosh County line.

Wayne County Courthouse
The current courthouse was built in 1803 in the Romanesque revival style and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Other sites in Jesup included on the National Register include the John W. C. Trowell House at 256 E. Cherry Street and the Leonard Carter House at 311 S. Wayne Street.

Directions: Take U.S. Hwy 341 or U.S. Hwy 84 to Jesup, Georgia. The courthouse is located at 174 N. Brunswick Street.

Glynn County

Old Town Brunswick
Old Town Brunswick is the largest of the “small town urban” National Register Historic Districts in Georgia. Plans for Brunswick’s streets and squares were laid out following Oglethorpe’s Savannah Plan of squares in 1771, and the town is known for its eclectic mix of turn-of-the-century architecture. Two notable structures in the district are the Mahoney-McGarvey House at 1709 Reynolds Street, one of the best examples of Carpenter Gothic architecture in Georgia, and Glynn Academy, the second oldest public school in Georgia. At the intersection of Albany and Prince Streets stands “Lover’s Oak”, a 900 year-old live oak where, according to local legend, Native American lovers would meet under the tree’s enormous spreading limbs.

Mary Ross Park on the Brunswick waterfront includes historical markers detailing the production of Liberty ships (cargo and troop carriers) during World War II by over 16,000 workers for J.A. Jones Construction Company in Brunswick. The park includes a World War II Memorial, sound garden and a replica of a Liberty Ship.

Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation State Historic Site
This beautiful plantation represents the history and culture of Georgia’s rice coast. In the early 1800’s, William Brailsford of Charleston established a rice plantation from swamp lands along the Altamaha River. The plantation and its inhabitants were part of
the genteel low country society that developed during the antebellum period. Despite the many difficulties associated with rice cultivation in the years after the Civil War, the family continued to grow rice until 1913. Then the enterprising siblings of the fifth generation at Hofwyl-Broadfield resolved to start a dairy rather than sell their family home. The efforts of Gratz, Miriam and Ophelia Dent led to the preservation of their family legacy. Ophelia was the last heir to the rich traditions of her ancestors, and she left the plantation to the state of Georgia in 1973. The plantation is now operated by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources’ Division of Parks and Historic Sites.

A museum features silver from the family collection and a model of Hofwyl-Broadfield during its heyday. A brief film on the plantation’s history is shown before visitors walk a short trail to the antebellum home. A guided tour allows visitors to see the home as Ophelia kept it with family heirlooms, 18th and 19th century furniture and Cantonese china. As one of the Colonial Coast Birding Trail sites, Hofwyl-Broadfield offers a nature trail that leads back to the Visitors Center along the edge of the marsh where rice once flourished.

Admission:

Adults $5.00
Children $2.50

Hours:

Tuesday – Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 2:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
The last tour of the main house begins one hour before closing.
Closed Monday (except holidays), Thanksgiving, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day. Closed Tuesday when open Monday.

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 42 onto GA Hwy 99 North. Travel approximately 1 mile to U.S. Hwy 17 and turn right (toward Brunswick). The park entrance is on the immediate left.

St. Simons Island Lighthouse Museum
The original St. Simons Lighthouse was constructed from 1807-1810 by James Gould, who served as its first keeper. The original structure was made of tabby and stood 75 feet tall. Confederate troops destroyed the lighthouse in 1861 to prevent it from falling into enemy hands, and for the following ten years no light marked the entrance to the St. Simons Sound. In 1868, the United States government contracted with Georgia architect Charles Cluskey to design and build the current lighthouse, which was completed in 1872 and stands 106 feet high. In 1890, the fuel for the lighthouse lamps was updated from whale oil to kerosene, and in 1934, the lighthouse was finally converted to electricity.

The St. Simons Island Light with its original third order Fresnel lens is one of only five surviving light towers in Georgia. In 1972, the Coastal Georgia Historical Society refurbished the keeper’s house and created a Visitors Center and the Museum of Coastal History. Unlike many other operational lighthouses, visitors are welcome
to climb the 129 steps leading to the top of the St. Simons Lighthouse to enjoy the
panoramic view of the marshes and the near-by barrier islands. St. Simons Lighthouse
is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Phone:    (912) 638-4666

Museum Hours:
Monday – Saturday    10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday             1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
The Lighthouse closes at 4:45 p.m. The last climb to the top is at 4:30
p.m.
Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve & Day and New Years Day

Admission:
Adults            $6.00
Children (6 – 12) $3.00
Combination Tickets for both the Lighthouse and the Maritime Center at
the Historic Coast Guard Station are available.

Directions:  From I-95 take Exit 29 to U.S. Hwy 17 North. About 0.5 miles north of
downtown Brunswick, turn right onto the F.J. Torras Causeway and follow this road to
St. Simons Island. Bear right onto Kings Way. Pass the flashing caution light at Sea
Island Road and the traffic signal at Frederica Road. The airport is on the left at this
intersection. At the following traffic signal, turn right onto Mallery Street. Proceed 1
block to Beachview Drive and turn left. Go 0.25 miles to 12th Street and turn right.
Proceed to 101, 12th Street.

Maritime Center at the Historic Coast Guard Station
In 1933, as part of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), President Franklin Delano
Roosevelt authorized the building of 45 United States Coast Guard Stations around the
country. Work began in the fall of 1935 on what was to become the St. Simons Station and
Boathouse. Of the 45 stations, only St. Simons and two others are believed to exist today.

The station and the boathouse stood their “First Watch” on April 1, 1937. The St. Simons
Island site was officially designated the East Beach Station and was under the command
of the Second United States Coast Guard District headquartered in Jacksonville, Florida.
When the station first opened, the beachfront was located just a few feet from the front
door. In the intervening years, the accretion of beach sands have filled in the area
between the station and the ocean, and that area is now a large parking lot.

The East Beach Station was decommissioned in the autumn of 1995 when all
communications, housing and boating facilities were moved from St. Simons Island
to the new location on the mainland. Under the direction of the Coastal Georgia
Historical Society, and with donations from their many benefactors, the aging station
has been refurbished and converted into a Maritime Museum featuring a variety of
themes from history to marine life.

Phone    (912) 638-4666
Cultural and Historic Sites

Admission:

- Adults: $6.00
- Children (6 – 12): $3.00

Combination Tickets for both the Lighthouse and Maritime Center at the Historic Coast Guard Station are available.

Hours:

- Monday – Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday: 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve & Day and New Years Day

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 29 to U.S. Hwy 17 North. About 0.5 miles north of downtown Brunswick, turn right onto the F.J. Torras Causeway and follow this road to St. Simons Island. Bear right onto Kings Way. Pass the flashing caution light at Sea Island Causeway and the traffic signal at Frederica Road. The airport is on the left at this intersection. Proceed on Kings Way, which will subsequently undergo a name change to Ocean Boulevard. At East Beach Causeway (1st Street) turn right. The station is straight ahead at 4201, 1st Street.

Fort Frederica National Monument

In the early 18th century, ownership of the land that is now Georgia was in dispute between British South Carolina and Spanish Florida. Gen. James Oglethorpe established Fort Frederica on St. Simons Island in 1736 to protect the southern boundary of the new colony of Georgia from Spanish Florida. Frederica was a military outpost with both a fort and a town, and the entire area was surrounded by a palisade wall and earthen rampart. In 1742, during the fabled War of Jenkin’s Ear, British troops at Fort Frederica defeated a Spanish invasion from St. Augustine, thus confirming Britain’s right to the Georgia colony. Subsequently, the garrison at Frederica was disbanded and the town declined. Today, the National Park Service protects the archeological remnants of Frederica. Fort Frederica Park offers self guided explorations, tours, talks and a museum area with artifacts.

A Visitor Center film is Closed Captioned and has Audio Description (inquire at information desk for audio description headsets). Handicapped accessible parking spaces, wheelchair ramps and accessible restrooms are provided. The National Park Service has a wheelchair and golf cart available on request for those needing assistance to visit the town site and fort. The town site has soft grass with no walkway and may not be suitable for wheelchairs.

Phone: (912) 638-3639

Admission:

- Adults: $3.00
- Children (under 16): Free

Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. daily
Closed Christmas Day
Directions: From I-95 take Exit 29 to U.S. Hwy 17 North. Approximately 0.5 miles north of downtown Brunswick, turn right onto the F.J. Torras Causeway and follow this road to St. Simons Island. On St. Simons, keep left onto Demere Road and continue to the first traffic light. Turn left onto Sea Island Road. Proceed 1.5 miles to the next traffic light and turn left onto Frederica Road. Follow Frederica Road for 2 miles and take the second right off the roundabout. The park entrance is located 300 yards past Christ Church.

Bloody Marsh Historic Site
In 1742, Colonial Georgia served as a “buffer” between the English colonies to the north and Spanish interests in Florida to the south. Pursuant to the outbreak of hostilities between Spain and England in the “War of Jenkin’s Ear”, the Spanish organized an invasion of the Georgia colony. Don Manuel de Montiano, governor of St. Augustine, organized and led a force of approximately 5,000 soldiers. Georgia’s General James Oglethorpe, however, learned of the pending invasion. Oglethorpe organized a force of less than 1,000 men from Frederica and nearby Ft. King George to repel the attack. On July 5, the Spanish troops landed on the southern tip of St. Simons Island and set up camp. On the morning of Wednesday, July 7, a Spanish scouting party advanced toward Fort Frederica, approximately seven miles away, to assess the landscape and plan their attack. A small body of English troops met the Spanish at Gullyhole Swamp and the two units exchanged shots. When General Oglethorpe learned of the encounter, he mounted his horse and galloped to the scene with reinforcements. With Oglethorpe in the lead, the English reinforcements charged directly into the Spanish line and scattered the invaders. Oglethorpe then posted a detachment to defend the position and returned to Frederica to recruit additional men and to prevent another Spanish landing on the northern coast. That same afternoon, the Spanish moved more troops down into the area towards Frederica. The waiting English forces fired upon the unsuspecting Spanish from heavy cover in the surrounding marshes. The Spanish were once again sent into confusion and a headlong retreat. The ambush in the marshes resulted in another Spanish defeat despite Oglethorpe’s absence from the fray. The Spanish left St. Simons on July 13. Though only about fifty casualties, mostly Spanish, were sustained in this second engagement, it was named the “Battle of Bloody Marsh.” No further major incursions into the Georgia colony were ever mounted by the Spanish. Today a monument and overlook mark the site of the battle in the marshland.

Phone: (912) 638-3639

Admission: Free

Hours: 8:30a.m. – 4:00 p.m. daily
Closed Christmas Day

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 29 to U.S. Hwy 17 North. About 0.5 miles north of downtown Brunswick, turn right onto the F.J. Torras Causeway and follow this road to St. Simons Island. On St. Simons, keep left onto Demere Road. Proceed on Demere Road approximately 2 miles, crossing Frederica Road and passing the St. Simons Airport. Watch for the sign on the left.
Christ Episcopal Church and Cemetery
When Gen. James Oglethorpe settled St. Simons Island and founded the town and fort at Frederica, he was accompanied by Charles Wesley, his Chaplain and Secretary for Indian Affairs. Charles conducted religious services at Frederica and was often visited by his brother John Wesley, who would later found what was to become the modern Christian denomination of Methodism. Charles permanently returned to England in July 1736 for health reasons while John remained in Georgia working to establish a church at Frederica. John Wesley conducted services underneath a great, spreading live oak tree on the site of the present-day Christ Episcopal Church. Wesley’s replacement, the prominent clergyman George Whitefield, continued this tradition of sermonizing under the oak. The Wesley Oak still stands on the church property.

During the Revolutionary War, Episcopalian services were regularly held on the site or at the home of a parish member during inclement weather. In 1808, Christ Church Frederica received a charter from the state of Georgia and church organizers began to raise funds for a building. The first church building was erected on the present location in 1820, and the congregation worshipped there until the outbreak of the Civil War. When St. Simons Island citizens returned home at the end of the war, they found Union troops had damaged the roof and destroyed much of the Church’s interior, including the alter and organ. Once again, parishioners met in their homes until 1884 when prosperous resident Anson Green Phelps Dodge rebuilt the church.

The present church building is cruciform in design with a trussed Gothic roof. Stained glass windows, given as memorials, commemorate the life of Christ and the early history of the Church on St. Simons Island. The Font was donated by the Sunday School of St. Thomas Church in New Haven, Connecticut in 1884. Part of the Credence Table and an inset in the present altar are from the original altar of the 1820 church. Christ Church yard is the final resting place of former rectors of Christ Church, early settlers and families of the plantation days. The oldest gravestone discovered in the yard dates from 1803. Across the street from the cemetery is a walk dedicated to Charles and John Wesley.

Phone: (912) 638-8683

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 29 to U.S. Hwy 17 North. About 0.5 miles north of downtown Brunswick, turn right onto the F.J. Torras Causeway and follow this road to St. Simons Island. On St. Simons, keep left onto Demere Road and continue to the first traffic light. Turn left onto Sea Island Road. Proceed 1.5 miles to next traffic light and turn left onto Frederica Road. Follow Frederica Road for two miles and take the second right off the roundabout. Follow signs to Fort Frederica. The church is on the left just before the Fort.

Pink Chapel, St. Simons Island
The Pink Chapel can be considered a monument to a Coastal Georgia family feud. In the early 1830’s, bitterness over a disputed property line broke out between two prominent St. Simons Island planter families, the Wylly’s and the Hazzard’s. The bitterness turned to violence at a meeting in Brunswick when Thomas Hazzard
shot and killed young John Wylly. Though the killing appeared to be unjustified, Hazzard would eventually be cleared of any charges. Even so, the Hazzard family was ostracized by many of their St. Simons neighbors. Since both feuding families were active communicants of Christ Church Frederica, the congregation felt a particularly uncomfortable pall when the two families were compelled to face one another at Sunday services. By 1838, the Hazzard family stopped attending Christ Church Frederica and built a small, private, family chapel on their expansive West Point plantation. Over time, under the shading limbs of the live oaks, the tabby construction was covered by pink colored lichen giving the chapel its common name. Generations of area residents grew up with ghoulish tales concerning the Pink Chapel. Today, the ruins of two tabby slave cabins and the Pink Chapel are incorporated into a residential neighborhood on the west end of St. Simons Island. The pink lichens have disappeared and the chapel stands in poor condition. The chapel can be seen, but is not open for public tours.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 29 to U.S. Hwy 17 North. About 0.5 miles north of downtown Brunswick, turn right onto the F.J. Torras Causeway and follow this road to St. Simons Island. On St. Simons, keep left onto Demere Road and continue to the first traffic light. Turn left onto Sea Island Road. Proceed 1.5 miles to next traffic light and turn left onto Frederica Road. Follow Frederica Road for two miles and take the second right off the roundabout. Proceed past Fort Frederica continuing on West Point Drive to its termination. Turn right onto a dirt road and then turn left at the first road.

The Jekyll Island Club and Historic District
In 1886, a group of prosperous industrialists desiring a place to escape from the busy and hectic life of the city formed a hunting retreat on Jekyll Island. This retreat, dubbed the Jekyll Island Club, included on its roster business leaders such as George F. Baker, Marshall Field, J. P. Morgan, Joseph Pulitzer, William Rockefeller and William K. Vanderbilt. Over the 54-year lifespan of the club, simplicity and family oriented activities would guide all leisure and pastime events on the island. A 1904 Munsey Magazine article concerning the Jekyll Island Club declared, “The world of industry and commerce, of railroads and factories, of trusts, mergers, and monopolies, is something wholly apart from this island paradise.”

Although an escape from the urban lifestyle, the Jekyll Island Club became an important player in historical events. The club would boast visits from President William McKinley and other political dignitaries, it would be the location for a meeting that created the Federal Reserve Banking System and it would actively participate in the ceremonial opening of the first transcontinental telephone line across the United States. According to a letter written by the daughter of a member, club president Dr. Walter B. James, “[t]he real core of life in Jekyll Island’s great days was to be found in the men’s after-dinner talks. It was always of great things, of visions and developing. If they didn’t have a map of the United States or World before them, they had a map of industrial or financial empires in their minds.” In 1888, a clubhouse was constructed on the island near which some of the members eventually built mansion-sized cottages. In the early years hunting was the favorite activity, but in time other sports such as bicycling, golf, lawn bowling and tennis became popular.
Evenings were spent in the clubhouse where, after dining on elaborate multi-course meals, members and guests enjoyed billiards, cards, dancing or fireside chats. By the 1910’s many of the founding members had died, and new members such as economic leaders Vincent Astor, Richard T. Crane, and Theodore N. Vail were recruited. The Jekyll Island Club’s final season was in 1942. The decision to close was prompted by World War II; some members and employees had been drafted and the government had rationed many commodities. On June 2, 1947, Georgia Governor Melvin E. Thompson purchased Jekyll through condemnation proceedings for $675,000. Considered a bargain, the island was designated a state park. The Georgia State Parks Department took possession of the island on October 7, 1947, and the Jekyll Island Club formally dissolved in late January 1948.

Today, the Jekyll Island Club National Historic Landmark District is a 240-acre riverfront compound and one of the largest ongoing restoration projects in the southeastern United States. The old “Clubhouse” has been restored and converted into a hotel and restaurant. Many of the “Millionaires’ Cottages” are still standing and several are open for tours. Another notable historical site is the tabby Horton House ruins located on the northern end of the island. The Horton House was built in 1735 and was the first European home-site on Jekyll. The Spanish destroyed the house on July 12, 1742 following the Battle of Bloody Marsh. Jekyll also has excellent beaches, wildlife areas and camping.

**Phone:** (912) 635-4036 (Jekyll Island Museum)

**Hours:** 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. daily
Closed on holidays.

Tours vary seasonally and depart from the Jekyll Island Museum at 100 Stable Road. Tour availability and pricing are subject to change. For more information on pricing and tour availability or to make reservations, please call the Jekyll Island Museum.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 29 to U.S. Hwy 17 North. Proceed approximately 5 miles and turn right onto the Downing Musgrove Causeway to Jekyll Island. On Jekyll Island, keep left and take the first left just past the Parking Fee booth to U-turn back past the booth. Immediately turn right onto Riverview Drive. Continue on Riverview Drive to Stable Road and turn right. Look for the signs to the Historic District and parking areas on the left.

A parking fee is required to access Jekyll Island. For directions and detailed information, please see Jekyll Island in the *Beaches and Barrier Islands* section.

**Brantley County**

**Confederate Soldiers Memorial Park**
The Confederate Soldiers Memorial Park includes the Confederate Memorial Wall, U.D.C. Monument, the Southern Heritage Library & Museum, a Confederate Cemetery and the Wiggins Peoples Cemetery. The Memorial Park Complex is owned and operated by the Waynesville Preservation and Historical Society.
**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 29 to U.S. Hwy 17 South. Drive approximately 1 mile to the intersection of U.S. Hwy 17, U.S. Hwy 82, and GA Hwy 303. Take U.S. Hwy 82 North towards Waycross. Continue to Browntown Road and turn right. Just after crossing the railroad tracks, turn right on Mineral Springs Road. The park is approximately 0.3 miles on the left.

**Fort McIntosh Historical Marker**
The Historical Marker notes Fort McIntosh, an American military fortification during the American Revolutionary War. The log structure was constructed by William McIntosh to guard the Georgia frontier against Native Americans and Tory sympathizers. The fort was a square log and earthen structure about 100 feet per side with a bastion at each corner. Captain Richard Winn commanded the fort’s 60 men from the 3rd South Carolina Regiment and the 1st Brigade Georgia Militia. On February 17, 1777, the fort was attacked by a force of Tories and Native Americans and was forced to surrender the following day.

**Directions:** The marker is located at the intersection of U.S. Hwy 82 and GA Hwy 110 in Atkinson, GA.

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**Camden County**

**Kingsland City Hall and Visitor’s Center**
A historic hotel built circa 1930, the Kingsland City Hall is also the Visitor’s Center and is in the National Register Historic District.

**Phone:** (800) 433-0225

**Hours:** 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday – Friday

**Directions:** Kingsland is located on U.S. Hwy 17 at the Georgia/Florida border. From I-95, take Exit 3 and travel west on GA Hwy 40 to the intersection with Lee Street. The City Hall is located at 107 South Lee Street.

**McIntosh Sugar Mill Tabby Ruins**
The large, well-preserved, tabby ruins are believed to have been originally constructed in the late 1820’s by John Houston McIntosh. McIntosh used the “Spalding Method” for tabby making that was perfected by Thomas Spalding on Sapelo Island. It was once thought that the structure’s thick walls were essential to ensure the warmth needed for superior sugar production. The McIntosh sugar mill is noted as the first animal-powered (cattle) horizontal sugar mill in Georgia.

**Phone:** (800) 868-8687 or (912) 882-4000

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 3 and travel east on GA Hwy 40. Take Spur 40 towards Kings Bay Naval Base. Pass the base and cross the railroad tracks. The ruins are on the left.
Orange Hall
This historic house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a classic antebellum home. Its Greek Revival architecture has Doric columns, a front verandah and grand steps leading to the second floor main entrance. William Ashley, one of St. Marys founders, originally owned the property, and it is believed that construction began between 1826 and 1829. In 1862, the house became headquarters of a squad of Union troops; therefore it remained relatively unharmed during the Civil War. The museum exhibits fine furnishings and collectibles.

Phone: (912) 576-3644 (Automated Information)

Admission:
- Adults: $3.00
- Children (6 – 12): $1.00

Hours:
- Monday – Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Sunday: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 3 and turn east on GA Hwy 40 for 8-9 miles. The house is located in the Historic District of Downtown St. Marys at 311 Osborne Street.

St. Marys Submarine Museum
A non-profit organization, the museum has a wide variety of submarine artifacts, memorabilia and information about the “Silent Service.” A real periscope is available for viewing the St. Marys waterfront.

Phone: (912) 882-ASUB (2782)

Admission:
- Adults: $3.00
- Children (6 – 18): $1.00
- Senior (over 62): $2.00
- Military (with Green-Blue ID): $2.00
- Museum Members: Free (with annual membership)

Hours:
- Tuesday – Friday: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Sunday: 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Closed Mondays, Thanksgiving & the Christmas - New Years period.

Directions: Take I-95 to Exit 3 and turn east on GA Hwy 40 for 8-9 miles. At the river, turn right to park. The museum is the second building on the right. The trolley is located in the Historic District of Downtown St. Marys.
**USS George Bancroft**
Sail exhibit at the Franklin Gate of the 16,000 acre Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay. The sail honors the submarine service centennial.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 1 and travel east on St. Marys Road. The sail is located at the intersection of St. Marys Road and Spur 40.

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**Charlton County**

**The Folkston Funnel**
The “Folkston Funnel” is a double track that serves as the main artery for railroad traffic in to and out of Florida. From the viewing platform in Folkston, visitors can look south to see trains passing on their way to and from Jacksonville, Florida, and look north of town to see a split where trains travel west to Waycross or north to Savannah.

The platform features lights, ceiling fans and a scanner to listen in to radio traffic between trains. Adjacent to the platform are picnic tables, a grill and a new restroom facility for guests. Trains can also be enjoyed from the grounds of the restored Folkston depot, just diagonally across the tracks from the platform.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 3 and travel west on GA Hwy 40 through Kingsland to Folkston. The funnel is located in downtown Folkston.

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**The Chesser Homestead**
Located within the Okefenokee Wildlife Refuge, the Chesser Homestead is a historic swamp family home originally built in 1927. Visiting the homestead is a great way to learn of how swamp pioneers once lived. A volunteer is often stationed at the homestead to talk about the house, show visitors inside and answer questions. Also, several outbuildings surround the home display old tools, livestock pens and equipment for cane syrup production. The Okefenokee Wildlife Refuge’s Richard S. Bolt Visitor Center has a 15-minute award winning film showing scenes of the Okefenokee, interpretive exhibits, hands-on displays and a life-like mechanical storyteller.

For more information see the Suwanee Canal Recreation Area of the Okefenokee Wildlife Refuge in the *Wildlife Viewing and Walking Trails* section.
Rivers and Waterway Access

Introduction

Salt marshes and waterways define the character of coastal Georgia. According to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources’ Coastal Resources Division, Georgia’s 100 linear mile coast contains 500,000 acres of estuarine waters, 350,000 acres of salt marsh and 3,400 miles of tidal shoreline. Five major rivers meet the sea along the Georgia coast: the Savannah, Ogeechee, Altamaha, Satilla and St. Marys. All this adds up to unlimited opportunities for visitors and residents who wish to enjoy fishing, boating, kayaking, canoeing or other water sports. The following chapter provides detailed information on how to access the water, no matter where you are in coastal Georgia. The water body accessible from each point of access is noted. Only those access points or facilities open and available to the general public are included in this Guide. As a convenient and standard starting point, most directions begin at Interstate Highway 95 which lies north to south along Georgia’s coast.

Chatham County

Marinas

Coffee Bluff Fish Camp Marina, Little Ogeechee River
GPS Location: 31° 56’ 10.788” N 81° 09’ 15.120” W

This full service marina has a floating dock, gas, tackle, drinks and a boat hoist. Launch fees are dependent on the length of the boat.

Phone: (912) 925-9030

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 94 onto GA Hwy 204 and travel east 8.9 miles. Turn right onto Holland Drive and proceed approximately 0.5 miles. Then turn right onto White Bluff Road. This road eventually becomes Coffee Bluff Road and leads to the marina.

Isle of Hope Marina, Skidaway River
GPS Location: 31° 58’ 46.80” N 81° 03’ 21.01” W

This full service marina has wet slips, floating dock, gas, full marina store, drinks and a boat hoist. Launch fees are dependent on the length of the boat.

Phone: (912) 354-8187.

Directions: From I-95 take I-16 East towards Savannah. Take Exit 164A onto the Lynes Parkway (I-516) East. The parkway will become Derenne Avenue. Merge onto Truman Parkway South. Take the Montgomery Cross Road ramp and turn left onto E. Montgomery Cross Road. Continue until the road ends and turn right onto Skidaway...
Rivers and Waterway Access

Road. Travel through the community of Sand Fly and pass the Isle of Hope Elementary School (on the left). Take the third right onto Rose Avenue and follow it to the end.

Hogan’s Marina, Turner’s Creek
GPS Location: 32° 00’ 78.01” N 80° 59’ 32.01” W

This full service marina offers dry storage, wet storage, hoist, gas, pump out, transient docking, restrooms/shower, marine store, bait (live and frozen), fishing tackle, snacks & beverages and car/trailer parking. Launch fees are dependent on the length of the boat.

Phone: (912) 897-3474.

Directions: Take U.S. Hwy 80 East to Wilmington Island. Just over the bridge, turn right on to Wilmington Island Road. The marina is located just ahead on the right.

Chimney Creek Fish Camp
GPS Location: 31° 58’ 46.80” N 81° 03’ 21.01” W

This is a full service marina with a restaurant, floating dock, gas, tackle and a boat hoist. Launch fees are dependent on the length of the boat. The marina is open from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., 7 days per week.

Phone: (912) 786-9857.

Directions: Take I-95 to I-16 East. Follow I-16 to the end and merge onto Martin Luther King Boulevard. Turn right onto E. Liberty Street and left onto E. Broad Street. Turn right onto E. President Street (Islands Expressway). Keep left over the overpass and merge onto U.S. Hwy 80 East and follow the highway to Tybee Island. On Tybee Island, U.S. Hwy 80 becomes Butler Avenue. Continue on Butler Avenue and turn right onto Catalina Drive, then immediately turn left onto DAV Road. From DAV Road, turn right onto Estill Hammock Road. The marina is in approximately 0.2 miles.

Boat Ramps
King’s Ferry Boat Ramp & Park, Ogeechee River
GPS Location: 31° 58’ 43.1394” N 81° 17’ 16.7634” W

King’s Ferry is a public park with four paved boat ramps in good condition, a floating dock, three pavilions, picnic tables, a large parking lot, a playground, a fishing pier, swimming section and restrooms.

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 90 East towards Richmond Hill. Proceed approximately 1 mile and turn left onto U.S. Hwy 17. Proceed on U.S. Hwy 17 for approximately 2 miles to the Ogeechee River Bridge. Cross the bridge and immediately turn right into the park.
Houlihan Boat Ramp & Park, Savannah (Front) River

GPS Location: 32° 09’ 50.724” N
81° 09’ 24.300” W

Four paved boat ramps, a playground, floating dock, picnic tables, restrooms and a large parking area are available. No over night tie-ups are allowed at the docks.

Directions: The park and ramp are located near Port Wentworth, north of Savannah. From I-95 take Exit 104 east onto Airways Avenue towards the Savannah-Hilton Head Airport. Just before the airport, turn left onto McKenna Drive. McKenna shortly becomes Gulfstream Road. Continue on Gulfstream Road for approximately 4 miles to GA Hwy 21. Turn left on GA Hwy 21 (also known as Augusta Road) and proceed a short distance to GA Hwy 30 (also known as Bonnybridge Road). Proceed to GA Hwy 25 (N. Coastal Highway). Turn left on GA Hwy 25 and proceed approximately 2 miles to the Savannah River. Houlihan Park and Ramp is on the right, just before the bridge.

Bell’s Landing Boat Ramp, Little Ogeechee River

GPS Location: 31° 58’ 23.8434” N
81° 10’ 18.6954” W

This paved boat ramp has double lanes with boating service dock, fishing pier and parking located just up the street from the ramp.

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 94 East on GA Hwy 204 for 7.1 miles to Apache Avenue. Turn right on Apache Avenue and drive 0.6 miles to the boat ramp and parking area on the left.

Skidaway Narrows Boat Ramp, Skidaway River

GPS Location: 31° 56’ 50.2074” N
81° 04’ 03.2520” W

Two paved triple-lane boat ramps are available at this location along with restrooms, picnic areas, a service dock and bait shop. There is paved parking.

Directions: From I-95 take I-16 East towards Savannah. Take Exit 164A onto the Lynes Parkway (I-516) East. The parkway will become Derenne Avenue. Merge onto Truman Parkway South and continue until it ends at Whitfield Avenue and turn left. This road becomes the Diamond Causeway. The boat ramp is on the right just before the drawbridge over the Skidaway River.

F.W. Spencer Park, Wilmington River

GPS Location: 32° 03’ 33.1194” N
81° 01’ 23.4834” W

This park has a paved boat ramp with two lanes, a pier and a dirt parking lot. Restrooms and picnic tables are available. Use of ramp at low tide is not advised.
Directions: From I-95 take I-16 East to Montgomery Street (Exit 167B, Savannah/Civic Center/Downtown - Last exit). Continue for 0.8 miles and turn right onto Liberty Street. Continue on Liberty to Broad Street. Turn left on Broad then turn onto E. President Street. East President becomes the President Street Extension which is also U.S. Hwy 80 East. Take U.S. Hwy 80 East to Islands Expressway. Turn left on Islands Expressway and drive 1.5 miles. The park is located on the left side of the expressway after crossing the Wilmington River.

Thunderbolt Boat Ramp, Wilmington River
GPS Location: 32° 02’ 11.3274” N 81° 02’ 39.0114” W

This single-lane, paved boat ramp has a floating dock and large, dirt parking area. Live bait shrimp are available at this location.

Directions: From I-16 take Exit 165 onto the 37th Street Connector. Continue for 0.6 miles to 37th Street. From 37th Street, turn left onto GA Hwy 204 and proceed for 0.8 miles to Abercorn Street. Turn right on Abercorn Street and proceed 0.3 miles to U.S. Hwy 80. Turn left onto U.S. Hwy 80 and travel 2.9 miles to Mechanics Avenue. Turn left on Mechanics Avenue and proceed to the pier.

Turner Creek Boat Ramp
GPS Location: 32° 01’ 12.1794” N 80° 59’ 33.9360” W

This paved ramp has a floating dock and an unpaved parking area.

Directions: Take U.S. Hwy 80 East to Wilmington Island. Turn right onto Johnny Mercer Drive and travel approximately 2 miles. The ramp is under the western end of Spence Greyson Bridge. Turn left immediately before the bridge.

Lazaretto Creek Boat Ramp
GPS Location: 32° 00’ 57.1314” N 80° 53’ 26.9874” W

This facility has a paved four-lane ramp with a floating dock that is suitable for fishing. The site is located on Lazaretto Creek, one of the two creeks that separate Tybee Island from the mainland.

Directions: Take I-95 to I-16 East. Follow I-16 to the end and merge onto Martin Luther King Boulevard. Turn right onto E. Liberty Street and then turn left onto E. Broad Street. Turn right onto E. President Street (Islands Expressway). Keep left over the overpass and merge onto U.S. Hwy 80 East. Follow the highway towards Tybee Island for approximately 14 miles. Just after the entrance to Ft. Pulaski National Monument, watch for the boat ramp sign on the right side of the roadway.
Fort Pulaski National Monument Boat Ramp, Savannah (South) River
GPS Location:  
31° 01’ 27.5800” N  
81° 53’ 52.1200” W

A boat ramp, hiking, picnicking, museum, historic fort and bookstore are available at this National Monument site. The ramp will accommodate small boats, kayaks and canoes only.

**Phone:** (912) 786-5787

**Hours:** 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. daily; Extended Summer Hours are from Memorial Day through Labor Day from 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. daily. Fort Pulaski National Monument is closed on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

**Directions:** Turn left into Ft. Pulaski, cross the causeway and enter the park grounds. The boat ramp is on the right.

For directions and detailed information, please see Fort Pulaski National Monument in the Cultural and Historic Sites section.

Montgomery Boat Ramp, Vernon River
GPS Location:  
31° 56’ 18.9600” N  
81° 07’ 12.2514” W

This single-lane paved ramp has no facilities available and is in poor shape with no parking. Caution should be exercised when launching from this location especially at low tide.

**Directions:** From I-95 take I-16 East towards Savannah. Take Exit 164A onto the Lynes Parkway (I-516) East. The parkway will become Derenne Avenue. Merge onto Truman Parkway South and continue until it ends at Whitfield Avenue and turn left. Bear right to remain on Whitfield Avenue. Turn left on Bell Street and continue to the ramp.

Salt Creek Boat Ramp
GPS Location:  
32° 02’ 28.8954” N  
81° 12’ 12.6354” W

In addition to the paved boat ramp, there are restrooms, a fishing pier and a large parking lot at this location. This ramp is only suitable for smaller boats due to the low clearance of the bridges above and below the ramp.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 94 and travel east on GA Hwy 204. Drive approximately 2.1 miles to U.S. Hwy 17 North. After approximately 4 miles, pass the bridge, and after another 0.1 miles turn left onto Salt Creek Road. Take the next left onto Silk Hope Road which dead ends at the boat ramp.
L. Scott Stell Community Park & Boat Ramp (Freshwater Lake)

GPS Location: 32° 02’ 31.7760” N
81° 17’ 13.0554” W

A freshwater fishing pier and a paved boat ramp are located on a small lake in this park. There are also facilities for soccer, baseball, volleyball, badminton, tennis, archery and jogging. A playground, restrooms, picnic area, grills and a pavilion are also available.

Phone: (912) 652-6780

Hours: Fall/Winter 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.; Spring/Summer 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 94 and travel west on GA Hwy 204 for 2.4 miles. Then turn right onto Bush Road. Continue for 2.2 miles then turn right onto Scott Steel Road. The park is located 0.3 miles down the road.

Pier Fishing

Tybee Island Back River Pier
This pier is a good place to fish for saltwater species and blue crabs and is ADA compliant with seated angler stations. The pier accesses the entrance to Tybee Creek which is known locally as Back River. Little Tybee Island, which is actually larger than Tybee Island, lies across the river. There are no facilities at this pier.

Directions: Take I-95 to I-16 East. Follow I-16 to the end and merge onto Martin Luther King Boulevard. Turn right onto E. Liberty Street and left onto E. Broad Street. Turn right onto E. President Street (Islands Expressway). Keep left over the overpass to merge onto U.S. Hwy 80 East and follow the highway to Tybee Island. Once on Tybee Island, U.S. Hwy 80 becomes Butler Avenue. Continue on Butler Avenue to Chatham Avenue until you reach the second traffic light. Turn right onto Jones Avenue. Turn right when Jones Avenue dead ends. The first street on the left is the road to the fishing pier.

Tybee Pier and Pavilion
The Tybee Pier is an ocean pier located in the heart of the Tybee Island Beach Resort area. Fishing for whiting and other saltwater species can be good in season. The pier is adjacent to the Tybee Pavilion and picnic tables, a snack bar and restrooms are nearby.

Directions: Take I-95 to I-16 East. Follow I-16 to the end and merge onto Martin Luther King Boulevard. Turn right onto E. Liberty Street and left onto E. Broad Street. Turn right onto E. President Street (Islands Expressway). Keep left over the overpass and merge onto U.S. Hwy 80 East and follow the highway to Tybee Island. Once on Tybee Island, U.S. Hwy 80 becomes Butler Avenue. Continue on Butler Avenue to Tybrisa Street and turn left. The pier is at the end of Tybrisa.

Lazaretto Creek Fishing Pier
This fishing pier was once part of the Old Tybee Road from Savannah to Tybee Island. The Pier is located in rich oyster-bank habitat and can offer productive catches of salt water fish. A small park and boat launch ramp are nearby.
**Directions:** Take I-95 to I-16 East. Follow I-16 to the end and merge onto Martin Luther King Boulevard. Turn right onto E. Liberty Street and left onto E. Broad Street. Turn right onto E. President Street (Islands Expressway). Keep left over the overpass to merge onto U.S. Hwy 80 East and follow the highway towards Tybee Island for approximately 14 miles. Just after the entrance to Ft. Pulaski National Historic Monument watch the right hand side of the road for the sign for the Lazaretto Creek Boat Ramp. Turn right at the ramp and proceed to the end of the roadway to the pier.

**Thunderbolt Fishing Pier, Wilmington River**
Thunderbolt Fishing Pier is located at the William E. Honey Waterfront Memorial Park. The park offers a pavilion, picnic tables, restrooms and a playground.

**Directions:** From I-16 take Exit 165 onto the 37th Street Connector. Continue for 0.6 miles to 37th Street. From 37th Street, turn left onto GA Hwy 204 and proceed for 0.8 miles to Abercorn Street. Turn right on Abercorn Street and proceed 0.3 miles to U.S. Hwy 80. Turn left onto U.S. Hwy 80 and travel 2.9 miles to Mechanics Avenue. Turn left on Mechanics Avenue and proceed to the pier.

**Downing Fishing Piers, Moon River**
The piers are ADA compliant and there is plenty of parking.

**Directions:** From I-16 take Exit 164A onto the Lynes Parkway (I-516) East towards Savannah. From I-95 take I-16 East towards Savannah. Take Exit 164A onto the Lynes Parkway (I-516) East. The parkway will become Derenne Avenue. Merge onto Truman Parkway South and continue until it ends at Whitfield Avenue and turn left. This road becomes the Diamond Causeway. One pier is just before the GA Hwy 204 Bridge over Moon River leading to Skidaway Island and the second pier is just after the bridge.

**Lake Mayer Park & Trail (Park Pond)**
This 75-acre park in downtown Savannah has two pavilions, basketball, tennis, volleyball, a playground and an ADA compliant fitness course. The park also has a well illuminated jogging path, bicycle trails and a freshwater fishing area. There are restrooms and showers available.

**Phone:** (912) 652-6780

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 94 to GA Hwy 204 East. This highway will become Abercorn Street. Continue to Montgomery Cross Road and turn right. Continue past Sallie Mood Drive. The park entrance is on the left.

**Salt Creek Park**
A fishing pier, playground, running water and restrooms are available at this park.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 94 onto GA Hwy 204 East. Drive approximately 2.1 miles to U.S. Hwy 17. Turn left (north) onto U.S. Hwy 17 and proceed for approximately 5 miles. The park is on the left just after the Salt Creek Bridge.
**Effingham County**

**Boat Ramps**

**Ebenezer Landing Boat Ramp, Savannah River**

GPS Location: 32° 22’ 45.4800” N  
81° 10’ 56.2434” W

The gravel/paved ramp is in fair condition. However, the ramp drops off at the end, so use caution when launching on low tidal stages. Restrooms, picnic tables and plenty of parking are available. A launch fee is required at this ramp.

**Directions:** From Savannah, take GA Hwy 21 North past Rincon. Turn right onto GA Hwy 275/ Ebenezer Road (look for food mart). Drive 5.5 miles to the boat ramp.

**Tuckasee – King Boat Ramp, Savannah River**

GPS Location: 32° 31’ 56.5320” N  
81° 16’ 35.0394” W

This two-lane, paved ramp is operated by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources’ Wildlife Resources Division and is an excellent facility with a courtesy dock. No rest rooms are available.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 109 onto GA Hwy 21 North and proceed approximately 14 miles to Springfield. Just after Springfield, turn right onto GA Hwy 119 North. Travel for 12.2 miles and turn left onto County Road 84, also known as Tuckasee-King Road. Proceed for approximately 1 mile to the ramp.

**Abercorn Creek Boat Ramp**

GPS Location: 32° 15’ 31.2840” N  
81° 10’ 41.8794” W

This paved boat ramp is on Abercorn Creek, which leads to the Savannah River. There is a picnic table and bank fishing, but no other facilities.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 109 onto GA Hwy 21 toward Rincon. Proceed for 5.2 miles. Turn right onto Chimney Road. Travel 2.1 miles and turn right onto Old Augusta Road (dirt). Note: the street name has been changed from Lake Cherie Road to Old Augusta Road and some maps may use the old name. Travel 1.1 miles and take a left onto Abercorn Road (paved). Bear left at the fork at 0.6 miles and continue to the boat ramp.

**Small Boat Carry Downs**

**Ebenezer Creek and GA Hwy 119 Bridge**

GPS Location: 32° 23’ 26.4480” N  
81° 18’ 11.5914” W
There are no facilities at this kayak/canoe put-in, and the small parking area is along the roadway. Bank fishing is available. Ebenezer Creek is a black-water tributary of the lower Savannah River, and the Ebenezer Landing Boat Ramp (at the end of GA Hwy 275) is just downriver from where the creek joins the Savannah River.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 109 onto GA Hwy 21 North toward Springfield and proceed approximately 14 miles. Just after passing through Springfield, turn right onto GA Hwy 119 North. Cross the Ebenezer Creek Bridge, continue for approximately 1.5 miles and pull off the road. A path to the left leads to Ebenezer Creek.

**Bryan County**

**Marinas**

**Fort McAllister Marina, Ogeechee River**

GPS Location:  
31° 53’ 09.2754” N  
81° 12’ 43.992” W

Gas, oil, bait, tackle, ice, boat hoist, restaurant and refreshments are available at this full service marina.

**Phone:** (912) 727-2632

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 90 to GA Hwy 144 East toward Richmond Hill. Proceed approximately 6 miles and turn left on Spur 144. Continue for approximately 5 miles to the marina.

**Kilkenny Creek Marina**

GPS Location:  
31° 47’ 20.4000” N  
81° 12’ 12.0234” W

This full service marina has a boat hoist, boat storage, ice, bait, a phone and a large parking lot.

**Phone:** (912) 727-2215

**Hours:** Daily 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 90 to GA Hwy 144 East. Proceed approximately 10 miles, traveling through Richmond Hill. Turn left onto Kilkenny Road and remain to the right when the road splits. Watch for the marina sign. The marina is located at the end of the road.

**Boat Ramps**

**Hwy 204 Morgan’s Bridge Boat Ramp, Ogeechee River**

GPS Location:  
32° 04’ 47.8194” N  
81° 23’ 8.55600” W
This paved boat ramp is in good condition. The facility offers canoe/kayak rentals, restrooms, picnic tables, public swimming, bank fishing and a large parking area.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 94 onto GA Hwy 204 West and proceed approximately 9 miles. Cross the Ogeechee River Bridge and immediately turn right onto Morgan’s Bridge Connector. The ramp is on the right.

**Richmond Hill Wildlife Management Area Boat Ramp, Jericho River**

GPS Location:  
31° 50’ 26.5920” N  
81° 21’ 15.2994” W

This paved boat ramp has no facilities. Bank fishing is available.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 87 to U.S. Hwy 17 South and proceed for 2.6 miles to Belfast Siding Road. Turn left onto Belfast Siding Road and travel 2.8 miles to a dirt road just before the highway overpass. Proceed on the dirt road for 2.5 miles to the ramp inside the Wildlife Management Area. Use caution on this dirt road, especially when wet.

**Demeries Creek Boat Ramp & Department of Natural Resources Office**

GPS Location:  
31° 47’ 9.3120” N  
81° 15’ 15.804” W

This facility has a fishing pier, wash down area and a paved boat ramp. It is located on a small creek that runs into the Medway River. To the left of the boat ramp is the Department of Natural Resources office where information and licenses are available.

**Phone:** (912) 727-2112

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 90 to GA Hwy 144 East. Proceed approximately 12 miles, traveling through Richmond Hill. Watch for signs and turn right at the Department of Natural Resources office. The ramp and fishing pier are to the right of the office.

**Redbird Creek Boat Ramp**

GPS Location:  
31° 52’ 50.94” N  
81° 10’ 40.75” W

The boat ramp and fishing pier are located within Fort McAllister State Historic Park. There is a museum, fort, bookstore, birding, hiking, biking, 50 picnic areas (some with grills), 2 shelters, restrooms and a playground in this historic park. Please see Fort McAllister State Historic Park in the *Cultural and Historic Sites* section.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 90 to GA Hwy 144 East toward Richmond Hill. Proceed approximately 6 miles and turn left on Spur 144. Continue for approximately 5 miles to the fort. The ramp is located approximately 1.5 miles from the park entrance on Redbird Creek.
Fort McAllister Boat Ramp, Ogeechee River
GPS Location: 31° 53’ 21.78” N  
81° 12’ 14.61” W

This single lane, paved boat ramp with a service dock is located on the Ogeechee River. There is a large parking lot with no facilities.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 90 to GA Hwy 144 East toward Richmond Hill. Proceed approximately 6 miles and turn left on Spur 144. Continue for approximately 5 miles to the ramp which is about 0.6 miles past the marina on the Ogeechee River.

Small Boat Carry Downs
Sterling Creek Bank Fishing & Small Boat Access
GPS Location: 31° 54’ 59.9040” N  
81° 17’ 00.2034” W

This site offers a small boat put-in (on flood tide) and bank fishing on Sterling Creek, which flows to the Ogeechee River. Mullet fishing in the summer is especially good at this location.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 90 to GA Hwy 144 East towards Richmond Hill and continue for approximately 3 miles to Sterling Creek Bridge. Parking is available on the right hand side of the highway just before the bridge.

Pier Fishing
Tivoli River Fishing Piers
Saltwater/brackish water pier fishing is available at this location. There are two fishing piers, restroom facilities and a small parking area for visitors.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 90 to GA Hwy 144 East towards Richmond Hill and continue for approximately 10 miles to Belfast-Keller Road. Turn right onto Belfast-Keller Road and proceed for approximately 1 mile.

Richmond Hill J.F. Gregory Park
Bridge fishing is available over a small fresh water pond in the park. There is also a playground, parking lot and covered pavilion with picnic tables.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 90 onto GA Hwy 144 East towards Richmond Hill. Turn left on Cedar Street and proceed a short distance to the park.

Ft. McAllister Fishing Pier, Ogeechee River
The fishing pier is located within Fort McAllister State Historic Park on the Ogeechee River side. There is a museum, fort, bookstore, birding, hiking, biking, 50 picnic areas (some with grills), 2 shelters, restrooms and a playground in this historic park. Please see Fort McAllister State Historic Park in the *Cultural and Historic Sites* section.
**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 90 to GA Hwy 144 East toward Richmond Hill. Proceed approximately 6 miles and turn left on Spur 144. Continue for approximately 5 miles to Ft. McAllister.

**Liberty County**

**Marina**

*Half Moon Marina, North Newport River*

GPS Location:  
31° 41’ 43.260” N  
81° 16’ 16.896” W

This full service marina has a boat hoist, ample docking, bait, ice and adequate parking.

**Phone:** (912) 884-5819

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 76 onto GA Hwy 38 (Islands Highway) East for about 9 miles. Turn right onto Kings Road, and turn right again onto Azalea Road. The marina is next to Half Moon Landing.

*Yellow Bluff Club & Marina*

GPS Location:  
31° 42’ 35.8914” N  
81° 14’ 22.4154” W

At this marina, a boat hoist, bait, fuel, docking and a full marina store are available.

**Phone:** (912) 884-5448

**Hours:** Hoist hours are from 6:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 76 onto GA Hwy 38 (Islands Highway) East. Travel about 10 miles to Colonels Island where the road ends. Look for the marina sign on the right.

**Boat Ramps**

*Sunbury Boat Ramp & Fishing Pier*

GPS Location:  
31° 45’ 52.3080” N  
81° 16’ 43.2834” W

This paved boat ramp on the Medway River is in excellent condition with spacious parking and portable toilets. The location also has a popular public fishing pier.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 76 onto GA Hwy 38 (Islands Highway) East. After 4.8 miles turn left onto Trade Hill Road. Drive approximately 1.3 miles and turn left onto Fort Morris Road. Pass the entrance to the Fort Morris State Historic Site and keep right at the boat ramp sign (2.6 miles from Trade Hill Road).
Jones Creek Park & Boat Ramp
GPS Location: 31° 48’ 24.1194” N
81° 22’ 27.2274” W

A paved boat ramp, running water, playground, pavilion and picnic tables are available at this access point. Shallow water in this tidal creek limits access to mid-tide to high-tide stages only.

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 76 onto U.S. Hwy 84 West for approximately 1.5 miles. Turn right onto Isle of Wright Road. The park entrance is 0.5 miles on the right.

Riceboro Creek Boat Ramp
GPS Location: 31° 44’ 40.77” N
81° 24’ 50.76” W

This paved boat ramp with service dock is located on Riceboro Creek. Parking is available.

Directions: From I-95, take Exit 67 onto U.S. Hwy 17 North. Proceed toward Riceboro for approximately 5.5 miles and turn right onto Interstate Paper Road. Proceed approximately 2 miles to a warehouse on the left. Turn left onto the asphalt road after crossing the train tracks. The ramp is located in approximately 0.25 miles.

Pier Fishing
Riceboro Creek Fishing Pier
This small pier on brackish Riceboro Creek produces both freshwater and saltwater species. A pavilion with picnic tables and trashcans as well as a small parking area are available.

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 67 onto U.S. Hwy 17 North. Pass through Riceboro and cross the Riceboro Creek Bridge. The fishing pier is located on the north side of the bridge.

Long County

Boat Ramps
Beards Bluff Campground & Adamson’s Fish Camp, Altamaha River
GPS Location: 31° 47’ 27.4920” N
81° 57’ 27.6834” W

This fish camp has water, electricity, public restrooms, showers, cabins, food service, boat ramp and rental boats available. Visitors can purchase ice, fuel and bait at the general store. There is also an area for primitive tent camping. There is a launch fee.

Phone: (912) 654-3632.
Directions: From I-95 take Exit 58 onto GA Hwy 57 West to Ludowici. From Ludowici, continue west 15.3 miles and turn left just before the bridge onto Beards Bluff Road (dirt road). Continue until you reach the fork in the road. The fish camp is located on the right and the public ramp is to the left. Use caution on these dirt roads, especially to the public ramp, as the road is very loose sand (4-wheel drive suggested).

Johnston Station Boat Ramp, Altamaha River
GPS Location: 31° 40’ 01.4874” N 81° 50’ 16.2960” W

The paved ramp has two lanes and the parking lot is large.

Phone: (912) 727-2112

Directions: From Jesup, travel north on U.S. Hwy 301. Cross the Altamaha River Bridge and turn right.

McIntosh County

Marinas
Dallas Bluff Marina, Julienton River
GPS Location: 31° 35’ 24.7194” N 81° 18’ 06.8040” W

There is ice and an electric boat hoist available at this marina.

Phone: (912) 832-5116.

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 58 onto GA Hwy 57 South. Proceed 1 mile to U.S. Hwy 17 and turn left (north). Proceed 2.2 miles to Pine Harbor Road and turn right. Then turn at the first left onto an unmarked road that is commonly referred to as Old Shellman Bluff Road or Young Man Road. Proceed 6.8 miles to the stop sign and turn left. Proceed for 1.7 miles to the Dallas Bluff Marina sign, turn right at the sign and follow the road for 0.1 miles to the marina.

Fisherman’s Lodge, Barbour River
GPS Location: 31° 34’ 02.999” N 81° 19’ 16.140” W

This is a full service marina with ice, bait, boat hoist and floating dock.

Phone: (912) 832-4671

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 58 onto GA Hwy 57 South. Proceed 1 mile to U.S. Hwy 17 and turn left (north). Proceed 2.2 miles to Pine Harbor Road and turn right. Then turn at the first left onto an unmarked road that is commonly referred to as Old
Shellman Bluff Road or Young Man Road. Proceed 6.8 miles to the stop sign and turn right toward Southerland Bluff. Then immediately turn left onto Fishermen’s Lodge Road. The marina is on the right at the end of the road.

**Shellman Fish Camp, Barbour River**

GPS Location:  

31° 34’ 07.2480” N  
81° 19’ 19.5954” W

This marina provides full service, with fuel, ice, boat hoist, gas, oil, bait, fishing tackle, guide-service and an ample parking area. The marina is located on Barbour River above its confluence with the Sapelo River.

**Phone:** (912) 832-4331

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 58 onto GA Hwy 57 South. Proceed 1 mile to U.S. Hwy 17 and turn left (north). Proceed 2.2 miles to Pine Harbor Road and turn right. Then turn at the first left onto an unmarked road that is commonly referred to as Old Shellman Bluff Road or Young Man Road. Proceed 6.8 miles to the stop sign and turn right toward Southerland Bluff. Turn left on Club Street, which dead ends at the marina.

**Pine Harbor Marina, Sapelo River**

GPS Location:  

31° 32’ 56.0754” N  
81° 22’ 19.1274” W

This marina offers a boat hoist, tackle, boat storage, bait, gas, and food.

**Phone:** (912) 832-5999

**Hours:** 6:00 a.m. to sunset

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 58 onto GA Hwy 57 South. Proceed 1 mile to U.S. Hwy 17 and turn left (north). Proceed 2.2 miles to Pine Harbor Road and turn right. Continue for 2.7 miles to Belle Hammock Road and turn left. After 0.1 miles turn right onto Pine Harbor Marina Road. The marina is 0.2 miles from the turn.

**Belle Bluff Marina & Campground, White Chimney Creek**

GPS Location:  

31° 33’ 51.4080” N  
81° 21’ 39.2034” W

This marina features a boat hoist, RV camping, restrooms and showers.

**Phone:** (912) 832-5323

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 58 and travel south on GA Hwy 57 for 1.0 mile to U. S. Hwy 17. Turn left (north) and travel 2.2 miles to Pine Harbor Road. Turn right and then onto the first left which is an unmarked road commonly referred to as Old Shellman Bluff Road or Young Man Road. Proceed 6.8 miles to the stop sign and turn right toward Southerland Bluff. Turn left on Club Street, which dead ends at the marina.
Shellman Bluff Road/Young Man Road. Drive 3.0 miles to Belle Hammock Road and turn right. Proceed on Belle Hammock Road for approximately 1.6 miles to the Belle Bluff marina sign. At the sign, turn left on the dirt road and proceed 0.2 miles to the marina.

Blue-N-Hall Marina, May Hall Creek  
GPS Location: 31° 24’ 19.044” N  
81° 23’ 32.064” W

Boat rentals, boat hoist, docking spaces, charter fishing, bait shrimp, fishing gear, fuel, ice and food are available. This marina is also known as the McIntosh Rod and Gun Club Marina.

Phone: (912) 437-4677

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 49 to GA Hwy 251 South. Turn right onto U.S. Hwy 17 South and then turn right onto Blounts Crossing. Turn left onto GA Hwy 99 North. Please watch for the Blue-N-Hall signs and turn right onto Blue-N-Hall Road. Follow the road until it ends. The marina is on the right.

Boat Ramps  
Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge, Barbour River  
GPS Location: 31° 37’ 16.9314” N  
81° 15’ 48.6714” W

The paved boat launch is in good condition and has a courtesy dock. A large parking area and a bike trail are nearby.

Hours: Closed from Midnight to 4:00 a.m.

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 67 and drive south on U.S. Hwy 17 for approximately 1.2 miles. Turn left onto Harris Neck Road/GA Hwy 131 (just after the Smallest Church in America). Continue approximately 7.1 miles to the end of the road and turn left into Harris Neck Wildlife Refuge on Barbour Landing Road. It is 0.5 miles to the boat ramp.

White Chimney Creek Boat Ramp & Fishing Pier  
GPS Location: 31° 34’ 54.480” N  
81° 21’ 32.796” W

This paved boat ramp has an ADA compliant fishing pier. The area includes a pavilion with picnic tables. White Chimney Creek is a tributary of the Sapelo River.

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 58 onto GA Hwy 57 South. Turn left onto U.S. Hwy 17 North. Travel 2.2 miles to Pine Harbor Road and turn right. Then turn left onto Shellman Bluff Road and proceed for approximately 4.5 miles. Cross White Chimney Creek Bridge and the ramp is located on the right.
Bellville Boat Ramp, Crescent River
GPS Location: 31° 31’ 52.2114” N
81° 21’ 31.9314” W

The paved ramp has a single lane with limited parking along the street. There are no facilities.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 58 and travel south on GA Hwy 57/GA Hwy 99 for 5.1 miles to Suzie Baker Road. Turn left and travel 1.6 miles to the boat ramp.

Blue-N-Hall Boat Ramp, May Hall Creek
GPS Location: 31° 24’ 21.3114” N
81° 23’ 32.0274” W

The ramp has a single lane with a courtesy floating dock. The parking area is small. Live bait shrimp and terminal tackle are available at the adjacent shop.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 49 to GA Hwy 251 South. Turn right onto U.S. Hwy 17 South and then turn right onto Blounts Crossing. Turn left onto GA Hwy 99 North. Please watch for the Blue-N-Hall signs and turn right at Blue-N-Hall Road. Follow the road until it ends. The county operated ramp is on the left and Blue-N-Hall Marina is on the right.

Darien City Boat Ramp, Darien River
GPS Location: 31° 22’ 05.807” N
81° 26’ 13.092” W

This ramp on the Darien River can be used at any tide. A small courtesy floating dock adjoins the ramp. From this launch location, up-river freshwater can be accessed as well as down-river saltwater. Parking is available for 6-10 vehicles with trailers.

**Directions:** The ramp is located in downtown Darien. From I-95 take Exit 49 to GA Hwy 251 South. Turn right onto U.S. Hwy 17 South and follow this road into Darien. Turn right onto Broad Street and proceed for one block. The ramp is located on the left.

James Allen Williams Park, Champney River
GPS Location: 31° 20’ 12.0840” N
81° 26’ 54.7794” W

A floating dock, double lane ramp and dock/pier fishing are available on the Champney River. From this launch location, up-river freshwater can be accessed as well as down-river saltwater. This site also offers picnic tables, restrooms and a large parking area.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 49 to GA Hwy 251 South. Turn right onto U.S. Hwy 17 South. From Darien, take U.S. Hwy 17 South about 2.5 miles towards Brunswick. Cross the Champney River. The park and ramp are on the left at the south end of the Champney River Bridge.
McIntosh Recreation Area & Barrington Park Boat Ramp, Altamaha River

GPS Location: 31° 28’ 16.932” N 81° 36’ 25.056” W

This ramp is located in the freshwater reaches of the Altamaha River. The paved ramp is in good condition. Restrooms, parking, camping and picnic tables are available.

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 49 onto GA Hwy 251 North toward Cox. Travel 5.5 miles and turn left at the Altamaha Wildlife Management Area (WMA) sign. This paved road will become a dirt road. Proceed 3.2 miles from the WMA sign and stay left at the fork in the road. This dirt road will lead to the ramp. Please watch for signs.

South Newport River Boat Ramp & Fishing Pier

GPS Location: 31° 38’ 38.3994” N 81° 23’ 38.4000” W

Facilities include paved boat ramp (not advisable at low tide), fishing pier, picnic tables, a medium sized parking lot and primitive-style camping.

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 67 to U.S. Hwy 17 South and proceed for 0.5 miles. The ramp is to the left.

Small Boat Carry Downs

McCallick Creek

GPS Location: 31° 25’ 37.5954” N 81° 29’ 49.3074” W

Small boats and canoes/kayaks can access the headwaters of Cathead Creek via McCallick Creek. Boaters must heed the tide stages. High tide is preferable. Parking is minimal, but can accommodate two to three vehicles.

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 49 onto GA Hwy 251 North. Keep left as the road forks. Drive 0.8 miles to the bridge over McCallick Creek. The left side of the bridge provides the best access.

Miller Lake Landing

GPS Location: 31° 32’ 27.6714” N 81° 39’ 37.1514” W

This area is good for small boat put-ins or canoes/kayaks. Miller Lake is located north of the Altamaha River just before you enter into Long County.

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 49 onto GA Hwy 251 North toward Cox. Proceed for approximately 3 miles to a fork in the road. Keep left at the fork onto Cox Road. Proceed approximately 3.4 miles to a second fork. At this fork bear right onto Holland Road. Continue for approximately 5.4 miles until the pavement ends. Remain on the dirt road for another 5.7 miles. Turn left to the boat ramp.
Fishing Piers

Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge Fishing Pier, Barbour River
GPS Location: 31° 37’ 31.4394” N
81° 17’ 22.0914” W

The site features an ADA compliant fishing pier, restrooms and a wildlife observatory.

Phone: (912) 832-4608; for hunting details (912) 652-4415

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 67 and drive south on U.S. Hwy 17 for approximately 1.2 miles. Turn left onto Harris Neck Road/GA Hwy 131 (just past the Smallest Church in America). Continue approximately 6.5 miles to the refuge entrance on the left. The pier is on the left as you enter. Please watch for signs.

White Chimney Creek Fishing Pier & Boat Ramp
GPS Location: 31° 34’ 54.480” N
81° 21’ 32.796” W

The fishing pier is ADA compliant. The area includes a paved boat ramp and pavilion with picnic tables. White Chimney Creek is a tributary of the Sapelo River.

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 58 and drive south on GA Hwy 57 for 1.0 mile to U.S. Hwy 17. Turn left (north) and travel 2.2 miles to Pine Harbor Road. Turn right onto Pine Harbor Road and then turn left onto Shellman Bluff Road. Proceed on Shellman Bluff Road for approximately 4.5 miles. Cross White Chimney Creek Bridge and the pier is located on the right.

Butler River Bridge Public Fishing
GPS Location: 31° 21’ 22.37” N
81° 26’ 39.44” W

Freshwater fish are the primary catch from this ADA compliant location. This pier was originally the U.S. Hwy 17 bridge over Butler River and was converted to a fishing pier when a new bridge was built.

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 49 to GA Hwy 251 South. Turn right onto U.S. Hwy 17 South. From Darien, take U.S. Hwy 17 South about 1.5 miles towards Brunswick. The pier is located on the old roadbed to the left and is accessed from the north side of the bridge.

Wayne County

Boat Ramps

Jaycee Landing, Altamaha River
GPS Location: 31° 40’ 00.45” N
81° 50’ 41.49” W
Full services are available at this fish camp and ramp located adjacent to the Altamaha Bridge at Doctortown. The facility offers a floating dock, ample parking and other amenities such as canoe and kayak rentals, fuel, bait, tackle and food.

**Directions:** From downtown Jesup, take U.S. Hwy 25/U.S. Hwy 301 North towards Ludowici. Left hand turns are not permitted onto the Jaycee Landing Road; therefore, proceed approximately 7.5 miles to Fishing Road, make a U-turn, travel back southward approximately 2 miles and turn right onto Jaycee Landing Road. The ramp is ahead on the right.

**Sansavilla Wildlife Management Area & Boat Ramp, Altamaha River**

**GPS Location:**  
31° 30’ 30.312” N  
81° 39’ 32.868” W

In addition to the boat ramp there are picnic tables, a covered pavilion and a gravel parking lot available. This ramp is located in the freshwater reaches of the Altamaha River and is locally called Williamsburg Ramp.

**Phone:** (912) 202-3173

**Directions:** From Brunswick, take U.S. Hwy 341 North to Mt. Pleasant. Turn right on Howard Road. Notice the sign to Akin Memorial United Methodist Church. Proceed 1.5 miles. Turn left onto Sansavilla Road and drive 3.9 miles. Turn left when the road ends. Proceed 4.8 miles and then turn right. Continue 6 miles until you reach the Sansavilla Wildlife Management Area. The ramp is on the road to the right. Enter through the red gate.

**Paradise Park Boat Ramp, Altamaha River**

**GPS Location:**  
31° 33’ 13.9314” N  
81° 42’ 41.8314” W

The paved ramp is in good condition. There is a fee for boat launching. This ramp is located in the freshwater reaches of the Altamaha River.

**Directions:** From Brunswick, take U.S. Hwy 341 North to Gardi. Turn right onto Morning Glory Circle, keep right onto River Road and drive 5 miles. Turn left onto Paradise Park Road. Continue for approximately 1.4 miles. The park and ramp are on the left.

**Oglethorpe Bluff Landing Boat Ramp, Altamaha River**

**GPS Location:**  
31° 43’ 16.3914” N  
81° 54’ 00.2880” W

This paved boat ramp has two lanes and is locally known as Pig Farm Landing. The large parking lot can hold up to 20 cars. This ramp is located in the freshwater reaches of the Altamaha River.

**Phone:** (912) 727-2112
**Directions:** From Jesup, take GA Hwy 169 North for 3.6 miles to Oglethorpe Road (County Road 31). Turn right onto Oglethorpe Road and proceed for 2.7 miles. Turn right onto Osteen Branch Road. Drive 2.4 miles and keep left at the fork. Follow the road until it ends at the boat ramp.

**Glynn County**

**Marinas**

**Two-Way Fish Camp Marina, South Altamaha River**

GPS Location: 31° 49' 36.912” N
81° 26’ 48.048” W

This full service marina has gas, supply store, boat hoist, travel lift, bait, tackle, restaurant, guides, engine repair and storage. From this launch location, up-river freshwater can be accessed as well as down-river saltwater. Low water launching may not be possible.

**Phone:** (912) 265-0410

**Directions:** The marina is located between Brunswick and Darien on U.S. Hwy 17 at the south end of the South Altamaha River Bridge. From I-95 take Exit 42 to GA Hwy 99 East. Drive approximately 1 mile to U.S. Hwy 17. Turn left onto U.S. Hwy 17 and proceed approximately 2 miles. Turn right onto Charlie Gibbs Road and continue until the road ends at the marina.

**Hampton River Club Marina**

GPS Location: 31° 17’ 42.108” N
81° 20’ 38.184” W

This full service marina has a floating dock, parking area and boat storage. The marina also has bait, ice, a fish cleaning area, charter service and travel lift and repairs.

**Phone:** (912) 638-1210

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 29 to U.S. Hwy 17 North. About 0.5 miles north of downtown Brunswick, turn right onto the F.J. Torras Causeway and follow this road to St. Simons Island. Turn left at the first traffic light onto Sea Island Road. Drive 2.7 miles and turn left on Frederica Road. Continue for 2.3 miles on Frederica Road to the roundabout. Keep right on the roundabout onto Lawrence Road and continue for approximately 7 miles. Lawrence Road will change to Hampton Point Drive. The marina entrance is on the right just before the gated entrance to the Hampton Club.

**St. Simons Island Boating Club Marina, Frederica River**

GPS Location: 31° 10’ 13.51” N
81° 24’ 32.35” W
This facility is a boating club marina that accommodates public launches. Facilities include restrooms, bait, ice and fuel.

**Phone:** (912) 638-9146

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 29 to U.S. Hwy 17 North. About 0.5 miles north of downtown Brunswick, turn right onto the F.J. Torras Causeway and follow this road to St. Simons Island. Turn left at the first traffic light onto Sea Island Road. Take the first left onto Hamilton Road and follow to the end.

**Brunswick Landing Marina, Brunswick River**

GPS Location: 31° 09’04.9674” N  
81° 29’55.1760” W

This location on the Brunswick River has a wet slip marina with travel-lift and boat repair facilities, fuel, ice, showers and a large parking area. The travel-lift launch is suitable for large boats only. The facility is ADA compliant.

**Phone:** (912) 222-6222 or (912) 262-9264

**Directions:** The marina is located near downtown Brunswick. From U.S. Hwy 17, turn west onto Gloucester Street in downtown Brunswick and travel for approximately 1 mile through downtown Brunswick to Bay Street. Turn right on Bay Street and continue for approximately 0.5 miles. The marina is on the left.

**Jekyll Harbor Marina**

GPS Location: 31° 02’46.176” N  
81° 25’17.328” W

This full service marina offers a boat hoist, docking, charter fishing, fuel, restaurant and a pool.

**Phone:** (912) 635-3137

**Directions:** After the parking fee collection booth on Jekyll Island, move to the right hand traffic lane and turn right at the first road onto South River View Drive. Turn at the first right onto Harbor Road. Jekyll Island entrance fees apply. For directions and detailed information, please see Jekyll Island in the *Beaches and Barrier Islands* section.

**Blythe Island Regional Park, South Brunswick River**

GPS Location: 31° 09’08.8920” N  
81° 32’48.6954” W

This facility is an excellent launch site with a boat hoist and a boat ramp. Live bait shrimp can be purchased in season. A small fresh water fishing lake, saltwater fishing
pier, floating dock and marina are available. The park features nature trails, camping, a picnic pavilion and playground.

**Phone:** General Information (912) 279-2812 or 800-343-7855  
Marina and Hoist Operator (912) 261-3814

**Hours:** During the summer season, the boat hoist is operational from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday through Sunday. A back-down ramp is located at the marina and is open from 6:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. daily. The bait shop is open from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. daily. Hours of operation change during the late fall and winter, so please call ahead for information.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 29 and travel west on U.S. Hwy 82 for 0.6 miles. Then turn right onto GA Highway 303 (Blythe Island Highway) towards Brunswick. After traveling 2.7 miles, turn right onto Sam Coffer Road and continue approximately 1.3 miles to the marina and boat ramp.

**Boat Ramps**

**Mackay River Boat Ramp**  
GPS Location: 31° 10’ 13.764” N  
81° 25’ 22.296” W

This is an excellent paved double-lane boat ramp with floating dock and ample parking.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 29 to U.S. Hwy 17 North. About 0.5 miles north of downtown Brunswick, turn right onto the F.J. Torras Causeway. Drive approximately 3.7 miles on the causeway. Turn right onto Marina Drive at the Golden Isles Marina. Turn immediately at the next right and drive back alongside the causeway toward McKay River Bridge. The ramp is approximately 0.5 miles at the foot of the bridge.

**Harrington Road Boat Ramp, Village Creek**  
GPS Location: 31° 12’ 19.476” N  
81° 21’ 36.828” W

This single lane boat ramp is located on a small tributary of Village Creek and holds no water on low tide. Launch and recovery must be carefully planned around the tidal stages. Fresh water, picnic tables and a fish cleaning station are available. Parking is limited.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 29 to U.S. Hwy 17 North. About 0.5 miles north of downtown Brunswick, turn right onto the F.J. Torras Causeway and follow this road to St. Simons Island. Keep left onto Demere Road. Turn left at the first traffic signal onto Sea Island Road. Travel approximately 3 miles. Turn left onto Frederica Road and travel approximately 2 miles. Turn right onto South Harrington Road (just past Bennie’s Red Barn Restaurant) and follow to the end.
Jekyll Island Boat Ramp
GPS Location:  31° 02’ 30.767” N
            81° 25’ 16.068” W

This boat ramp also has a floating service dock, fresh water hose, picnic tables, restrooms and medium-sized parking area.

**Directions:** After passing through the parking fee collection booth on Jekyll Island, move to the right hand traffic lane. Turn right onto S. River View Drive. Travel about 0.5 miles and turn right onto the dirt road at the boat ramp direction sign. Follow the dirt road around the pond to the ramp. Entrance fees to Jekyll Island apply. For directions and detailed information, please see Jekyll Island in the Beaches and Barrier Islands section.

GA Hwy 303 Boat Ramp, Turtle River
GPS Location:  31° 11’ 33.7194” N
            81° 31’ 45.0834” W

This small boat ramp is on Turtle River just upriver from the bridge on the old roadbed. The ramp is in poor condition, yet suitable for kayaks, canoes and small boats. Parking is difficult and turn-around space is extremely limited.

**Directions:** From downtown Brunswick, take Newcastle Street Extension north. The Extension becomes U.S. Hwy 341. Continue north on U.S. Hwy 341 for approximately 5 miles to GA Hwy 303 (Blythe Island Hwy). Turn left and continue for approximately 2 miles. Turn right onto the old roadbed approximately 0.25 miles before the Turtle River Bridge. The ramp is located at the end of the road.

Blythe Island County Park and Boat Ramp, Turtle River
GPS Location:  31° 11’ 2330”N
            81° 32’ 4611”W

This access to Turtle River features two excellent ramps and a large floating dock that doubles as a fishing pier. Parking is rather limited.

**Directions:** From downtown Brunswick, take Newcastle Street Extension north. The Extension becomes U.S. Hwy 341. Continue north on U.S. Hwy 341 for approximately 5 miles to GA Hwy 303 (Blythe Island Hwy). Turn left and continue for approximately 3.5 miles to Blythe Island Drive. Turn right and travel approximately 2 miles to Landing Street. Turn right and continue 0.25 miles to the ramp.

Blythe Island Regional Park, South Brunswick River
GPS Location:  31° 09’ 08.8920” N
            81° 32’ 48.6954” W

An excellent ramp and hoist are located at this site. Live bait shrimp can be purchased
in season. A small fresh water fishing lake, a salt water fishing pier, floating dock, and
marina are also available. The park features nature trails, camping, a picnic pavilion
and playground.

**Phone:** (912) 279-2812 or (800) 343-7855

**Hours:** During the summer season, the ramp is open from 6:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m.
daily. The bait shop is open from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. daily. Hours of operation
change during the late fall and winter, so please call for information.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 29 and travel west on U.S. Hwy 82 for 0.6 miles.
Then turn right onto GA Highway 303 (Blythe Island Highway) towards Brunswick.
After traveling 2.7 miles, turn right onto Sam Coffer Road and continue approximately
1.3 miles to the marina and boat ramp.

**South Brunswick River Boat Ramp**
**GPS Location:** 31° 09’ 08.8920” N  
  81° 34’ 08.7954” W

This modest, paved boat ramp is in fairly good condition and can be used at low tide.
There are no facilities and the parking area is small.

**Directions:** From downtown Brunswick, take U.S. Hwy 17 South past the Sidney
Lanier Bridge for approximately 9 miles to GA Hwy 303 (Blythe Island Highway).
Turn right on GA Hwy 303 and travel approximately two miles. The ramp is located
on the left just before the first bridge.

**Altamaha River Regional Park**
**GPS Location:** 31° 25’ 36.696” N  
  81° 36’ 23.004” W

The park has two paved ramps, an ADA compliant fishing pier, a bike trail, camping
and a gravel parking lot. This facility accesses fresh water.

**Phone:** (912) 264-2332

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 36 onto U.S. Hwy 341 North. Continue for
approximately 19 miles to Everett and turn right on Altamaha Park Road. Follow the
road for approximately 3 miles to the park. The road will end at the Altamaha River.

**Small Boat Carry Downs**
**Postell Creek Kayak/Canoe Carry-Down, St. Simons Island**
**GPS Location:** 31° 08’ 48.912” N  
  81° 22’ 31.800” W
This bank put-in is on Postell Creek. As are all such tidal creeks and tributaries, Postell is very shallow at low tide. Roadside parking is limited and visitors should be careful not to block the adjacent bike path. The site is a convenient put-in location for paddlers making the loop from Postell Creek to Gould’s Inlet and then south to the Coast Guard beach for pick-up. Exercise caution and do not attempt this loop to the beach in bad weather, high wind or rough seas.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 29 to U.S. Hwy 17 North. About 0.5 miles north of downtown Brunswick, turn right onto the F.J. Torras Causeway and follow this road to St. Simons Island. On St. Simons Island keep left onto Demere Road. Proceed on Demere Road for approximately 3 miles and turn left onto East Beach Causeway. Continue approximately 0.5 miles to the bridge over Postell Creek. The put-in is on the left.

**Fishing Piers**
**Glynn Overlook Park & Fishing Pier**
The pier is ADA compliant and the park offers marsh views, bird watching and picnicking. Lanier’s Oak, reputed to be the sight at which Sidney Lanier, Georgia’s first Poet Laureate, composed his classic poem *The Marshes of Glynn* is nearby. Adequate parking is available.

**Directions:** The pier and park is located at the marsh’s edge in downtown Brunswick at the intersection of U.S. Hwy 17 and Gloucester Street.

**Blythe Island Regional Park, South Brunswick River**
Glynn County Parks and Recreation Department operate this popular saltwater fishing pier on the South Brunswick River. Live bait shrimp can be purchased in season. A floating dock, small freshwater fishing lake and marina are also available. The park features nature trails, camping, a picnic pavilion and a playground.

**Phone:** (912) 279-2812 or (800) 343-7855

**Hours:** Open from 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**Directions:** From I-95, take Exit 29 to U.S. Hwy 17 South. Continue on U.S. Hwy 17 for 0.6 mile and turn right onto GA Hwy 303 toward Brunswick. After traveling 2.7 miles, turn right onto Sam Coffer Road and travel about 1.3 miles to the marina and boat ramp.

**Back River Fishing Piers**
Two ADA compliant piers access Back River from the F.J. Torras Causeway to St. Simons Island. The piers are remnant stubs of the old bridge over the river and oppose each other from the east and west sides of the river. The fishing is for saltwater species in this river near the St. Simons Sound.
**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 29 to U.S. Hwy 17 North. About 0.5 miles north of downtown Brunswick, turn right onto the F.J. Torras Causeway. Proceed for approximately 2 miles to the second bridge. The piers are located to the left of the causeway. If driving east on the causeway towards St. Simons, exit to the right just before the bridge and follow the road back under the bridge head to the right in order to access the west pier. If traveling east, enter the turn lane just past the bridge to access the east pier. Ample parking is provided at each site.

**Little River Bridge**
Fishing is allowed from the south side of the Little River Bridge on the F.J. Torras Causeway to St. Simons Island. An inshore fishing reef has been constructed by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources near the bridge, so fishing from the bridge can be very productive. A fishing platform extends the entire length of the bridge. A concrete barrier and high chain-link fence separate the platform from traffic.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 29 to U.S. Hwy 17 North. About 0.5 miles north of downtown Brunswick, turn right onto the F.J. Torras Causeway and follow this road to St. Simons Island. Proceed for approximately 2.5 miles to the third bridge. If driving east on the causeway towards St. Simons, exit to the right just before the bridge. A small parking lot is available.

**MacKay River Fishing Piers**
Two ADA compliant piers access McKay River from the F.J. Torras Causeway to St. Simons Island. The piers are remnant stubs of the old bridge over the river and oppose each other from the east and west sides of the river. The fishing is for saltwater species in this river near the St. Simons Sound.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 29 to U.S. Hwy 17 North. About 0.5 miles north of downtown Brunswick, turn right onto the F.J. Torras Causeway and follow this road to St. Simons Island. Proceed for approximately 3 miles to the fourth bridge. The piers are located to the right of the causeway. If driving east on the causeway towards St. Simons, exit to the right just before the bridge to access the west pier. To access the east pier, cross the bridge and continue to the entrance to the Golden Isles Marina. Turn right onto Marina Drive at the Golden Isles Marina. Turn immediately at the next right and drive back alongside the causeway toward McKay River Bridge. The east pier is located approximately 0.5 miles ahead at the foot of the bridge.

**Gascoigne Bluff Fishing Pier, St. Simons Island**
This floating dock and fishing pier is located on the Frederica River and is accessible from St. Simons Island. The site provides 110V outlets and restrooms (at the pavilion). The facility is open from sunrise to sunset.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 29 to U.S. Hwy 17 North. About 0.5 miles north of downtown Brunswick, turn right onto the F.J. Torras Causeway and follow this road to St. Simons Island. Keep left onto Demere Road. Turn left at the first traffic signal onto Sea Island Road. Travel approximately 0.25 miles and turn left onto Hamilton
Road. Travel approximately 0.5 miles and turn left onto Arthur J. Moore Drive. Turn right into the fenced area for access to parking and the pier/dock.

St. Simons Island Village Fishing Pier
This fishing pier provides access to St. Simons Sound. In addition to the pier there are shops, a visitor’s center, miniature golf, a park, picnic area, library and full bait & tackle shop nearby.

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 29 to U.S. Hwy 17 North. About 0.5 miles north of downtown Brunswick, turn right onto the F.J. Torras Causeway and follow this road to St. Simons Island. Bear right onto Kings Way. Turn right at the second traffic light onto Mallery Street and follow this road to the end. Parking is located near the pier.

Gould’s Inlet Fishing Pier & Beach Access, St. Simons Island
This small pier offers good fishing access to the inlet between St. Simons Island and Sea Island. Visitors can also enjoy beach access, scenic beach views and excellent bird watching opportunities. There are no bathroom facilities and parking is limited. A small freshwater wash down hose is located to the right of the access.

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 29 to U.S. Hwy 17 North. About 0.5 miles north of downtown Brunswick, turn right onto the F.J. Torras Causeway and follow this road to St. Simons Island. On St. Simons Island keep left onto Demere Road. Proceed on Demere Road for approximately 3 miles and turn left onto East Beach Causeway. Continue for approximately 0.5 miles and turn left onto Bruce Drive. The fishing pier is located at the end of Bruce Drive.

Old Jekyll Island Bridge Fishing Pier (Island side)
The fishing pier is a section of the old lift bridge on the Jekyll Island side of the Intracoastal Waterway. It is ADA compliant with fishing, wildlife viewing and parking.

Directions: After passing the parking fee collection booth on Jekyll Island, remain in the far left hand traffic lane. Execute a left-hand U-turn at the first opportunity by watching for the sign. Follow the roadway back, pass the booth and turn right onto Old Village Road. From Old Village Road, turn left at the first roadway and watch for the “Dead End” sign. Parking for the pier is located at the road end. Entrance fees to Jekyll Island apply. For directions and detailed information, please see Jekyll Island in the Beaches and Barrier Islands section for more information.

Old Jekyll Island Bridge Fishing Pier (Mainland side)
The fishing pier is a section of the old lift bridge on the mainland side of the Intracoastal Waterway. It is ADA compliant with fishing, wildlife viewing and parking.

Directions: The pier is located on the left side of the Downing-Musgrove Causeway just before the new bridge over the Intracoastal Waterway. For directions and detailed information, please see Jekyll Island in the Beaches and Barrier Islands section.
Ski Rixen Pond Public Fishing Docks, Jekyll Island
This small brackish pond is stocked by the Department of Natural Resources. The floating docks are ADA compliant.

**Directions:** After passing through the parking fee collection booth on Jekyll Island, move to the right hand traffic lane. Turn right onto S. River View Drive. Travel approximately 0.5 miles and turn right at the boat ramp direction sign. The pond is on the left. Entrance fees to Jekyll Island apply. For directions and detailed information, please see Jekyll Island in the *Beaches and Barrier Islands* section.

Clam Creek Picnic Area & Fishing Pier, Jekyll Island
This park offers fishing from the pier and from the bank. Beach access to the north end of Jekyll, picnicking, a nature trail through the marsh and fresh water are available.

**Directions:** After the parking fee collection booth on Jekyll Island, continue to the end of the road. Turn left onto Beach View Drive. Travel approximately 5 miles north and turn right at the Clam Creek Picnic Area sign onto Clam Creek Road. The pier is located at the road end. Entrance fees to Jekyll Island apply. For directions and detailed information, please see Jekyll Island in the *Beaches and Barrier Islands* section.

**Brantley County**

**Boat Ramps**

**Herrin Lake Boat Ramp, Satilla River**
GPS Location: 31° 16’ 25.6074” N
82° 00’ 51.1200” W

This access point to the upper Satilla River has a paved ramp and a bank put-in for small boats. Parking is limited.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 29 onto U.S. Hwy 82 West. Travel 26 miles to Nahunta, and take U.S. Hwy 301 North. Travel approximately 5 miles and turn left at Raybon Rock Road toward the town of Raybon. Travel 3 miles and turn right onto Herrin Landing Road. The ramp is approximately 0.5 miles at the road end.

**Trudie Boat Ramp, Satilla River**
GPS Location: 31° 18’ 32.400” N
81° 58’ 08.328” W

This upper Satilla River access facility has an excellent paved ramp, bank fishing and abundant parking.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 29 onto U.S. Hwy 82 West. Travel 26 miles to Nahunta, and take U.S. Hwy 301 North for approximately 7 miles to the Satilla River Bridge. The ramp is located on the southeast side of the river.
Warner’s Landing, Satilla River
GPS Location: 31° 14’ 24.7560” N
81° 51’ 53.3874” W

This ramp is in excellent condition, but parking is very limited. There are no facilities at this site. Please be careful not to block the driveways to the cottages near the ramp.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 29 onto U.S. Hwy 82 West. Travel approximately 19 miles to Atkinson, and proceed north on GA Hwy 110. Travel approximately 1.2 miles past the intersection of GA Hwy 110 and U.S. Hwy 84 and turn left onto the dirt road. The ramp is located approximately 0.8 miles on the right.

Laura S. Walker State Park, Big Creek
GPS Location: 31° 08’ 28.6074” N
82° 13’ 08.0754” W

The park is located on Big Creek, a tributary to the Satilla River. In addition to the ramp, the park features a golf course, wildlife observation platform, hiking trails, canoe rental and a fishing dock. The park also offers boating and waterskiing opportunities. Horsepower restrictions apply to lakes inside the park.

**Phone:** (912) 287-4900

**Directions:** The park is located 9 miles southeast of Waycross on GA Hwy 177. From I-95 take Exit 29 to U.S. Hwy 82 West. After approximately 40 miles, turn left (south) onto GA Hwy 177 (Laura Walker Road) and travel 2.4 miles to the park entrance.

Little Satilla River and Hwy 32 Bridge
GPS Location: 31° 21’ 02.9514” N
82° 01’ 58.6194” W

This paved ramp on the Little Satilla River is in good condition and for small boats only.

**Directions:** From downtown Brunswick, take U.S. Hwy 341 North for approximately 10 miles to GA Hwy 99 South and turn left. Travel approximately 4 miles and turn right onto GA Hwy 32 West. Travel approximately 27 miles, pass through Hortense and the ramp is located to the left just past the U.S. Hwy 32 bridge over the Little Satilla River.

Small Boat Carry Downs
Indian Swamp Creek
GPS Location: 31° 16’ 41.3400” N
81° 57’ 40.5354” W

This creek is a very small waterway that drains Indian Swamp. This site can be used as a carry down for small boats, canoes and kayaks. The parking area is small. It is
suggested that this access point be used only when the Satilla River gauge at Atkinson is five feet or above.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 29 onto U.S. Hwy 82 West. Travel 26 miles to Nahunta. From the intersection of U.S. Hwy 82 and U.S. Hwy 301 in Nahunta, travel north on U.S. Hwy 301 for about 5.2 miles to Indian Swamp Creek.

**Little Satilla River and Hwy 301 Bridge**

GPS Location: 31° 18’ 40.6080” N
81° 57’ 11.9874” W

This location is a carry down access for canoes/kayaks only. It is suggested that this access point be used only when the Satilla River gauge at Atkinson is five feet or above. Parking along the roadway is limited.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 29 onto U.S. Hwy 82 West. Travel 26 miles to Nahunta. From the intersection of U.S. Hwy 82 and U.S. Hwy 301 in Nahunta, drive north on U.S. Hwy 301 for approximately 8 miles to the Little Satilla River Bridge. The best access location is on the southeastern side of the bridge.

**Camden County**

**Marinas**

**Hickory Bluff Marina, Little Satilla River**

GPS Location: 31° 05’ 32.2800” N
81° 34’ 18.3354” W

This full service marina offers a boat hoist, restrooms, ice, bait, fuel, tackle and parking. Charter fishing is also available. The marina is for Boating Club Members, but will accommodate the general public.

**Phone:** (912) 262-0453

**Hours:** 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Wednesday – Sunday for the general public

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 26 and travel east on Dover Bluff Road for approximately 1.5 miles. Turn left on Hickory Bluff Road and after 0.7 miles turn left into the marina.

**Boat Ramps**

**Crooked River State Park Boat Ramp**

GPS Location: 30° 50’ 41.9994” N
81° 33’ 35.9274” W

This paved ramp on the Crooked River is adjacent to the Crooked River State Park. The ramp features a large floating dock, fish-cleaning table with running water, a fresh
water wash down hose and a paved parking lot. A daily parking fee is required, except on Wednesdays, when parking is free.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 3 onto GA Hwy 40 East. Follow GA Hwy 40 to the junction with Spur 40 and turn left. Travel north until the road ends.

**Downtown St. Marys Boat Ramp, St. Marys River**

GPS Location:  30° 43’ 12.6474” N  
81° 33’ 01.1154” W

This paved boat ramp has 4 lanes. Public fishing is allowed on the floating docks (fishermen must yield to boats). Restrooms, bait, tackle and fresh water wash down hose are available nearby. A large parking area is located on the street (to the left of the ramp when pulling out).

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 3 onto GA Hwy 40 East. It is 9 miles to Historic St. Marys, Georgia and the waterfront.

**Harriett’s Bluff Boat Ramp, Crooked River**

GPS Location:  30° 52’ 03.7914” N  
81° 35’ 04.8834” W

An excellent, ADA compliant boat ramp and fishing area are located on Crooked River just downriver from Saddlers Creek. Fresh water is available.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 7 onto Harriett’s Bluff Road. Continue for 7.2 miles and bear right at the fork. The ramp will be on your left.

**North River Boat Ramp**

GPS Location:  30° 43’ 59.3394” N  
81° 32’ 20.4714” W

Two large, paved boat ramps and a floating dock for fishing (fishermen must yield to boats) are available. There are no facilities, but trashcans are on site.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 3 onto GA Hwy 40 East (toward St. Marys) about 8 miles. Turn left onto Meeting Street just past the railroad tracks (notice boat ramp sign), and the ramp is at the end of the road.

**Satilla River Waterfront Park & Boat Ramp**

GPS Location:  30° 58’ 23.592” N  
81° 43’ 26.436” W

There is an excellent boat ramp at this public park. The park offers a pavilion (6-7 picnic tables) with 110V outlets, plentiful parking and running water. On the south side of the river, both upstream and downstream of the bridge, are large piers and an old railroad bridge for fishing (freshwater species).
Directions: The park is located in the town of Woodbine. From U.S. Hwy 17, turn east at the first road on the southern end of the bridge over the Satilla River (park is on the southeastern side of the Satilla River).

Hwy 17 Bridge Boat Ramp, St. Marys River
GPS Location: 30° 44’ 31.4880” N 81° 41’ 15.9354” W

There is a small, paved boat ramp on the Georgia side of the St. Marys River. Freshwater bank fishing is possible here, but the banks are rather muddy. The parking is limited, and the unpaved lot can be very muddy in rainy weather.

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 3 onto GA Hwy 40 West (East King Avenue) for approximately 1.5 miles. Turn left onto U.S. Hwy 17/South Lee Street and travel approximately 3 miles. The landing is located on the left side of U.S. Hwy 17 just before the bridge at the Georgia/Florida state border.

Temple Landing Boat Ramp, St. Marys River
GPS Location: 30° 47’ 25.3314” N 81° 48’ 22.4640” W

The paved boat ramp is in good condition and there is a floating dock, bank fishing access and a large paved parking lot. Restrooms and garbage cans are available.

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 3 onto GA Hwy 40 West. Travel 6.3 miles and turn left at the flashing light onto Browntown Road. Travel 0.8 miles and turn right at the four-way stop onto Greenville Road. Turn at the first left onto Temple Landing Road and proceed for approximately 0.3 miles to the landing.

White Oak Creek Boat Ramp
GPS Location: 31° 02’ 12.660” N 81° 43’ 47.496” W

The paved boat ramp is in excellent condition and can be used at all tide stages. There is a floating dock adjacent to the boat ramp and numerous parking spaces are located along the road. Fishing is permissible from a railroad bridge just upriver. There are no facilities, water or electricity for public use. The boat ramp is on White Oak Creek, which connects to the Satilla River east of I-95.

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 26. Travel east on Dover Bluff Road for approximately 1.3 miles. Turn left onto U.S. Hwy 17 and travel approximately 7 miles. The boat ramp is located off U.S. Hwy 17 just north of the town of White Oak. To access the railroad bridge, turn left from the boat ramp onto U.S. Hwy 17, take the first right onto GA Hwy 252 East, then take a quick right (onto a gravel road) and follow the road back to the White Oak Creek railroad bridge.
Spring Bluff Boat Ramp, Little Satilla River
GPS Location: 31° 06’ 48.7080” N
81° 36’ 50.4354” W

This small ramp is in good condition with a service dock and a medium-sized parking area. Bank fishing is possible, although the area is small and can be muddy. There are no facilities.

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 14 at Woodbine. Travel west on Spur 25/East 10th Street for approximately 2 miles. Turn right on U.S. Hwy 17 for approximately 1 mile. The ramp is located north of Woodbine on U.S. Hwy 17 on the southeast side of the Little Satilla River Bridge.

Etowah Park & Boat Ramp, Kings Bay Naval Station
GPS Location: 30° 49’ 12.576” N
81° 32’ 35.88” W

The park is part of the Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, but is located on a public portion of the base. As this is military property, public access may be subject to change. There is a small boat ramp in poor condition and only usable at half tides and up. Fine facilities are located throughout the park, and there is a fishing pier just to the left of the boat ramp for saltwater finfish such as whiting, speckled trout, flounder and redfish. Restrooms, a pavilion and picnic tables are also available. Camping is allowed for a fee and sites must be reserved. Make arrangements to get a gate key since the park gate is locked after dark.

Phone: For camping reservations, call (912) 573-8103

Directions: From I-95, take Exit 3 onto GA Hwy 40 East. Follow GA Hwy 40 to the junction with Spur 40 (Charles Smith Sr. Hwy) and turn left. Turn right at Kings Bay Naval Station Jackson Gate (0.4 miles). At the Jackson Gate entrance ask for a map and directions to the park.

Small Boat Carry Downs
Dark Entry Creek Floating Dock, Borrell Creek
GPS Location: 30° 45’ 12.9234” N
81° 35’ 01.0674” W

This is a new floating dock with a wide ramp suitable for kayak/canoe launching and public saltwater fishing. Parking is available for about 5 to 6 vehicles.

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 3 onto GA Hwy 40 East. Travel 5.5 miles and turn right into a small dirt parking lot just before Dark Entry Creek Bridge.

Catfish Creek and U.S. Hwy 17 Bridge
GPS Location: 31° 46’ 27.8394” N
81° 41’ 12.3714” W
This location is a put-in for small boats or kayaks/canoes and bank fishing is possible. Catfish Creek is a tributary of the St. Marys River.

**Directions:** Located on U.S. Hwy 17 about halfway between Kingsland and the St. Marys River at the bridge over Catfish Creek (located on the southwestern side of the creek).

**Crooked River and U.S. Hwy 17 Bridge**

GPS Location: 30° 50’ 00.4194” N  
81° 41’ 48.6960” W

This location is a carry-down for canoes/kayaks to access the Crooked River. Limited parking is available on the roadside. Use caution when pulling in and out of the parking spot. The creek is tidally influenced at this location, so plan your trip accordingly.

**Directions:** From Woodbine, take U.S. Hwy 17 South about 9.4 miles to the bridge over the Crooked River.

**Honey Creek Small Boat Access & Bank Fishing**

GPS Location: 31° 03’ 13.3914” N  
81° 32’ 21.2994” W

Bank fishing is permissible from the road access that runs into Honey Creek. This location is also a carry-down for canoes/kayaks. The parking area is small (3 or 4 vehicles only).

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 26 and travel south on U.S. Hwy 17 for about 3.5 miles. Turn east onto Dover Bluff Road, then turn left on Episcopal Center Road and drive until the road ends.

**Little Waverly Creek and U.S. Hwy 17 Bridge**

GPS Location: 31° 04’ 36.1554” N  
81° 43’ 37.4880” W

Bank fishing is available on the southeastern side of the creek from mid-tide and higher, and there is a carry-down put-in for small boats, canoes and kayaks only. The parking area is small. This creek flows into White Oak Creek.

**Directions:** Located on U.S. Hwy 17 between the towns of Waverly and White Oak.

**Waverly Creek and Hwy 17 Bridge**

GPS Location: 31° 04’ 54.5520” N  
81° 43’ 35.4714” W

Bank fishing is available around the bridge and just upstream at an old railroad bridge. There is also a put-in for small boats, canoes and kayaks only.

**Directions:** Located on U.S. Hwy 17 between the towns of Waverly and White Oak.
Charlton County

Boat Ramps

**Burnt Fort Boat Ramp, Satilla River**

GPS Location:  
30° 56’ 45.96” N  
81° 53’ 58.56” W

This boat ramp is paved, steep and has abundant parking. There is a small fishing dock with a bench and many spots for bank fishing. An area for primitive camping is located along the road to the left. There are no bathroom facilities or electricity. The location is tidally influenced with about a 4-hour lag time from the mouth of the Satilla River, and tidal differences can be as much as 4 to 5 feet. Just upriver from this location the Satilla becomes very shallow at low river stage, so the use of larger boats (over 14 feet) may not be possible. At extremely low river stages, especially in a dry summer, even canoeists and kayakers must portage in some areas.

**Directions:** From Woodbine, travel north on U.S. Hwy 17 to GA Hwy 252 West (Burnt Fort Road). The ramp is located about 0.2 miles south of the Satilla River Bridge on GA Hwy 252. Immediately turn onto the paved apron, which becomes a dirt road. Then turn right and drive approximately 0.2 miles until the road splits. Bear right to the boat ramp.

**St. George Boat Ramp, St. Marys River**

GPS Location:  
30° 31’ 25.428” N  
82° 01’ 08.832” W

A small, paved boat ramp and bank fishing are available at this location on the St. Marys River. The parking area is small.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 3 and travel west on GA Hwy 40 to Folkston. From downtown Folkston, take GA Hwy 121 South about 23 miles to St. George. Turn left (east) on GA Hwy 94, travel for 1 mile and then turn right just before the bridge. The boat ramp is on the second road to the left.

**Camp Pinckney Landing, St. Marys River**

GPS Location:  
30° 49’ 08.292” N  
81° 57’ 48.4554” W

The ramp is paved and in fairly good condition, but it is steep and deep at the end. There are picnic tables and ample parking. Bank fishing is available.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 3 and travel west on GA Hwy 40 to Folkston. From downtown Folkston, take GA Hwy 40 East for about 1.8 miles. Turn right onto Camp Pinckney Road. After traveling approximately 0.5 miles, bear right onto the dirt road (notice boat ramp sign). This is Camp Pinckney River Road and the ramp is about 2.0 miles further.
Trader’s Hill Recreation Area, St. Marys River
GPS Location: 30° 46’ 59.4114” N
82° 01’ 27.0840” W

This location offers full camping, RV hookups, restrooms, picnicking, floating dock and bank fishing. An excellent paved public boat ramp is just down the hill from the campground and there is plenty of parking.

Phone: (912) 496-3412

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 3 and travel west on GA Hwy 40 to Folkston. From downtown Folkston, take GA Hwy 121 South about 3.5 miles. Turn left at Trader’s Hill Road (notice the 3 signs). Take the next left onto Tracy’s Ferry Road and continue to the boat ramp and campgrounds.

Small Boat Carry-Downs
Suwannee River Sill Boat Ramp
GPS Location: 30° 48’ 12.9594” N
82° 25’ 03.6480” W

The ramp is for small boats and canoes/kayaks. Park wherever you can find a space, but do not block the road.

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 29 to U.S. Hwy 82 West. Travel approximately 48 miles to Waycross. Turn left onto U.S. Hwy 84 West and continue for approximately 26.6 miles. Turn left onto U.S. Hwy 441 South and travel to Fargo. Take GA Hwy 177 North to the park entrance (approximately 18 miles northeast of Fargo). Take the first left onto Suwannee River Sill Road (paved) and travel approximately 1.5 miles to the first spillway and the ramp.

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge
GPS Location: 30° 44’ 18.5274” N
82° 08’ 26.9520” W

Boat and canoe rentals, fishing, boat tours, picnic areas, hiking, camping, gift shop and a large parking area are available at this location.

Directions: From I-95 take Exit 3 and travel west on GA Hwy 40 to Folkston. Turn south onto GA Hwy 23/121 and proceed 7 miles. Turn right onto Spur 121 and drive 4 miles to the refuge.

Kingfisher Landing, Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge
GPS Location: 30° 57’ 19.6914” N
82° 08’ 15.6114” W
From Kingfisher Landing visitors can launch small boats to explore the vast Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. This location has a boat landing, information kiosk and composting toilet. Fishing, wilderness canoeing, camping, restrooms and parking are available. Visitors must sign in and out of the landing for their own protection. Entrance fees are required.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Exit 3 and travel west on GA Hwy 40 to Folkston. Turn right onto U.S. Hwy 1 North and travel about 13 miles. Turn left onto Kingfisher Landing Road and the ramp is at the end.

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### Additional Visitor Information

*For additional visitor information on accessing Georgia’s coastal resources, please call the following telephone numbers:*

- **Chatham County**
  - Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce ............ (912) 644-6400
  - Tybee Island .................................. (912) 786-5444

- **Bryan County**
  - Richmond Hill Convention & Visitor’s Bureau ...... (912) 756-2676

- **Liberty County**
  - Chamber of Commerce ....................... (912) 368-4445

- **McIntosh County**
  - Chamber of Commerce & Welcome Center ......... (912) 437-6684

- **Glynn County**
  - Brunswick Chamber of Commerce ............ (912) 265-0620
  - Jekyll Island ................................ (1-877) 4JEKYLL

- **St. Simons Island**
  - Chamber of Commerce ................. (912) 265-0620

- **Effingham County**
  - Chamber of Commerce ................... (912) 754-3301

- **Long County**
  - Commissioner’s Office .................. (912) 545-2143

- **Wayne County**
  - Chamber of Commerce ..................... (912) 427-2028

- **Branstley County**
  - Chamber of Commerce ....................... (912) 462-6282

- **Charlton County**
  - Okefenokee Chamber of Commerce .......... (912) 496-2536

- **Camden County**
  - Chamber of Commerce ....................... (912) 729-5840

- **Georgia Department of Natural Resources** .... (912) 264-7218