

Visit Coastal Georgia

From Savannah's cobblestone streets and city squares of the 1700s...to the historic lighthouse overlooking the Atlantic on Tybee Island...to the marshes and beaches of Brunswick and the Golden Isles of St. Simons Island, Sea Island, Little St. Simons Island and Jekyll Island...to the timeless sand dunes of Cumberland Island ...to Sapelo Island with remnants of the plantation era and the Gullah-Geechee culture still evidentto the whistle of the train music in Folkston...and into the mysterious Okefenokee Swamp, the coast of Georgia is filled with adventure, fun and discovery!

Georgia's Coast stretches approximately 100 miles between the Savannah and St. Marys Rivers...between South Carolina to the North and Florida to the South...a perfect location for groups and leisure travelers. This 12-county coastal region offers the best of both worlds... wander deserted stretches of beaches where the only inhabitants are loggerhead turtles and scampering shorebirds...sample oysters, soft-shelled crabs, scallops, rock shrimp, catfish, Low Country Boil and Brunswick stew....rock gently to the rhythm of "jazz and blues"shag on the shore.....tap your toes to Bluegrass....or clap your hands to the soulful beat of a Gullah-Geechee song.

Story Ideas

Friendliest Catch: From shrimp to blue crabs to jellyfish, Coastal Georgia's commercial fishing industry supplies seafood delicacies around the world. Although imports from other countries have local shrimping on a decline, interest in local jellyfish as an Asian delicacy is on the rise. Visit the docks of Savannah, Darien, Brunswick, and St. Marys, or travel aboard the Captain Gabby or Lady Jane, former commercial vessels outfitted for tours.

Crafted by the Coast: Coastal Georgia is home to many culinary creations. Coastal cooking schools abound, teaching students and visitors to use local products such as palmetto juice for marinating, Parisa's Gluten-Free Marinara Sauce, desserts with Byrd Cookie Company, Savannah Bee Company, sweet Wild Georgia shrimp, and many more coastal cooking secrets. Many coastal restaurants also create special recipes using local cuisine.

Guarding the Past: As the last of the 13 original colonies to be founded, Georgia began on the Coast. As evident by our many historic forts, buildings, and monuments, the new colony was defended against encroaching countries and eventually defenseless in the Civil War. Experience the coastal roots that

grew a colony, challenged a nation, and inspired an inquisitive author named Margaret Mitchell who wrote *Gone With The Wind*.

Drive By Beaches: In Georgia, Coastal Hwy 17 travels from Savannah to St. Marys and enhances the nostalgic Americana of days gone by prior to interstates when travelers experienced each small town and beach they passed.

What's Hot!

Small Town Georgia: Henry Ford's playground Richmond Hill, Colonial Midway, Shrimp-friendly Darien, the breathtaking Golden Isles, and sweet St. Mary's offer visitors a glimpse of the Georgia Coast.

Eco-Friendly Trail: the Colonial Coast Birding Trail, kayaking, camping, canoeing, sailing, boating, fishing, and Okefenokee swamping. Travel the rivers and ocean for a wildlife experience unlike any other.

On My Honor: 100 years of Girl Scouting – Juliette Gordon Low founded the Girl Scouts in Savannah, Georgia in 1912. 100 years later, almost 50 million women have been Girl Scouts. March 12, 2012 saw the largest Girl Scout celebration and bridge ceremony as they bridge into the new century.

Special Events & Festivals.....

Bluegrass Festival, Jekyll Island (January)

Mardi Gras Festival, St. Marys (February)

St. Patrick's Day Parade, Savannah (March)

St Pat's on the Bluff, Shellman Bluff (March)

Blessing of the Fleet, Darien (March/April)

Savannah Music Festival & Savannah Jazz Festival (March/April)

Annual Crawfish Festival, Woodbine (April)

Twin Oaks Bluegrass Convention, Hoboken (May & September)

Sunshine Festival, St. Simons Island (July)

Blues on the Bluff, Darien (July)

July 4th Celebrations-Savannah, Tybee Island, St. Simons Island, Jekyll Island, Brunswick, Richmond

Hill Shrimp and Grits Festival, Jekyll Island (September)

Blues, Brews & BBQ, Hinesville (September)

Annual Labor Day Weekend Catfish Festival, Kingsland (September)

Great Ogeechee Seafood Festival, Richmond Hill (October)

Brunswick Stewbilee, Brunswick (October)

Coastal Birding & Nature Festival, Jekyll Island (October)

Rock Shrimp Festival, St. Marys (October)

Okefenokee Festival, Folkston (October)

Savannah Film Festival (October)