



The Gateway to the Georgia Coast & Cumberland Island

Cumberland Island National Seashore:

["Land & Legacies"](#) van tours. These motorized guided "north end tours allow visitors to cover much more of the island than what one could see hiking on their own for a day trip. Sites may include Plum Orchard, the First African Baptist Church, and the Stafford Plantation site. The tour begins once you arrive on the island, at 9:45 a. m. and lasts approximately 6 hours. The fee for this tour is in addition to the ferry fee and park user fee, and advance reservations are highly recommended. This is a "behind the scenes" type tour with limited availability. [Cumberland Island National Seashore](#) celebrated 40 years as a seashore on October 23, 2012. Named to the "The South's Best Small Towns 2020" - Southern Living, July 2020; "Best Coastal Small Towns" - USA Today's Top10 List, July 2020; and "11 Best Beaches in Georgia" - Travel & Leisure, June 2020



Walks & Trails:

- [Rivers are trails, Too!](#) The [Southeast Coast Saltwater Paddle Trail](#), which includes St. Marys, is designated as a Nation Recreation Trail. The designation was celebrated in June 2012 with activities including kayak and paddleboarding demonstrations, education on "Leave No Trace" practices and a one-hour river clean-up by kayak.
- The [Georgia Coastal Railway](#) offers theatrical train excursions throughout the year. Themes for the hour and a half ride have included the Pirate Express, Easter Bunny Express, Santa Express, America's Heroes and Wild West Express. *New in 2021 will be Murder Mystery and Wine Excursions.
- [Tommy Casey Memorial Dog Park](#) – Enjoy a #petfriendly vacation while visiting this pet paradise.
- The [St. Marys History Walk](#) offers a 600-foot loop trail with 24 interpretive panels highlighting the cities rich history from the time of the Timucua, ship building and shrimping, Cumberland Island, and military history.
- Camden County is on the [Colonial Coast Birding Trail](#) (Woodbine, Crooked River State Park, Downtown St. Marys, and Cumberland Island are all-natural sighting locations).
- [Gum Branch Park & Nature Preserve](#) is a 359-acre public biking and walking trail that includes a disc golf course in Kingsland and the [Woodbine Riverwalk](#) is in nearby Woodbine.

St. Marys Classic Museums and Attractions:

- [St. Marys Aquatic Center](#) is great summertime fun for kids of all ages. Season opens in April and ends in September. The [St. Marys Submarine Museum](#) offers memorabilia and artifacts from World War I to present. The [Cumberland Island National Seashore Museum & War of 1812 Display Room](#) exhibits the island lifestyle plus artifacts from the Forgotten Battle – one of the last battles of the War of 1812 took place in St. Marys in January of 1815. The oldest marked grave in [Oak Grove Cemetery](#) is dated 1801 and there are more Revolutionary War patriots buried here than in any other Georgia cemetery.

Festivals:

- Our three largest events are the [Mardi Gras Festival](#), [Independence Day Festival](#), and the [Rock Shrimp Festival](#).

Noteworthy:

- Kayaking, boating, inshore and offshore fishing. Up the Creek Xpeditions offers War Canoe Tour. Kayak and Skiff rentals are available at Crooked River State Park. Knucklehead's, at the waterfront park offers rentals of SUP's and kayaks.
- Wildlife: birding, sea turtles, manatees, wild boars, water otters and more. The Colonial Coast Birding Trail winds through Camden County with great locations throughout St. Marys, Crooked River State Park, and on Cumberland Island.
- One of the last battles fought in the War of 1812. Bicentennial date for area battle – 1/2015.
- The Carnegie lifestyle on Cumberland Island.
- Culinary Stories on the variety of food choices and St. Marys famous Rock Shrimp.
- Tragic Acadians who sought refuge in St. Marys. Historic cemetery includes Acadians.
- The Cumberland Island Quarter that was release in 2018.
- Camera Ready Community designation. A feature film and two TV pilots have been recently filmed in recent years. A music video was filmed on Cumberland Island. In 2012, St. Marys was an integral part in the filming of Lovetown, USA and participated in several other filming projects including Royal Pains. Parts of Dumbo were filmed in 2018.
- Cumberland Sound Ferry serves as the Florida/Georgia East Coast Greenway Connection. Pre-arranged group ferry service to Fernandina Beach with or without bikes is available.
- St. Marys Peace Garden joined the Binational Peace Garden Trail in 2012. The Binational Tourism Alliance created the trail as a tourism initiative to stimulate cross border tourism from Canada, highlighting the War of 1812. The garden commemorates war, celebrates 200 years of peace and prosperity between the two nations, and is the southeastern most point on the trail.



Trip Extenders within a 1 ½ hour drive:

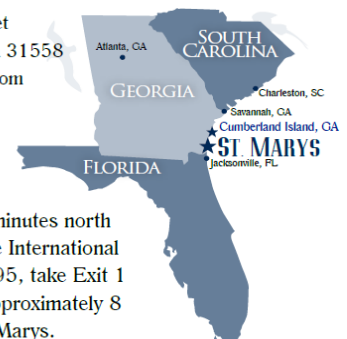
- Okefenokee Swamp
- Brunswick, St. Simons Island and Jekyll Island
- Darien and Sapelo Island
- Savannah, Richmond Hill, Tybee Island
- Amelia Island and Jacksonville, Florida

Accolades:

- "The South's Best Small Towns 2020" - Southern Living, July 2020
- "Best Coastal Small Towns" - USA Today's Top10 List, July 2020
- "Water, Sand and Plenty of Elbow Room on 8 Wild Protected Coastlines" - NY Times, July 2020
- "11 Best Beaches in Georgia" - Travel & Leisure, June 2020
- "18 of the Best Places to Visit in Georgia" - Trips To Discover, 2019
- "The Prettiest Town in Every U.S. State" - Architectural Digest, 2018
- "The Most Beautiful Vacation Spots in Each State" - TheInsider.com, 2018
- "The Prettiest Small Towns in Georgia" - Southern Living Magazine, 2018
- "Top 5 Unspoilt Beaches - USA" - Waterlogic
- "Destination - St. Marys, Georgia" - Marine Life Magazine
- "The Best Small Towns on the Georgia Coast" - VisitSouth.com
- "Where's the best beach in America?" - Time Magazine
- "10 Secret Beaches to Put on Your Bucket List" - Yahoo! Travel
- "Top 10 U.S. Travel Destinations" - Lonely Planet

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St. Marys is 20 minutes north of the Jacksonville International Airport. From I-95, take Exit 1 or Exit 3, then approximately 8 miles east to St. Marys.