**discover**

**Darien – McIntosh County**

“Where Georgia Began”

Darien-McIntosh County Chamber & Regional Visitor Information Center  
1111 Magnolia Bluff Way SW Suite 255  
Darien, GA 31305  
(912) 437-4837  
[www.VisitDarien.com](http://www.VisitDarien.com)

Darien, Georgia & McIntosh County, centrally located on Georgia's coastline and on the Altamaha River Delta

**Fisherman's Paradise & Artists' Paradise, McIntosh County is available for your next great adventure**

Offering various outdoor, historical and cultural activities, McIntosh County and Darien are true gems nestled on the coast of Georgia. This is the site of Georgia's first fort built by the Carolina Rangers and later re-garrisoned by Scottish highlanders as defense against the Spanish, French and native Indians population. Pristine rivers and salt water marshes provide perfect habitat for all manner of fish and fowl, as well as wild game and give perfect opportunities to sight see by canoe or kayak. Located along the Coastal Birding Trail, birders can find opportunities for locating all types from bald eagles to painted buntings. This county also can boast of a number of writers, both of fiction and non-fiction and a home-grown humorist and song writer.

**Attractions:**
Old Jail Art Center & Museum with Art Gallery & Studio  
Ashantilly Center has educational events such as Lime Burns, and talks by Buddy Sullivan, State Historian.  
Waterfront Shopping District offers a variety of specialty shops, gourmet foods, restaurants and a unique B & B  
Fort King George  
Butler Island and the Altamaha National Wildlife Refuge

**Festivals:**
Shellman Bluff’s St. Patrick's Day Celebration – First Saturday [AFTER March 17 (2012 will be on March 24)]  
Scottish Heritage Day @ Fort King George – was 3-19-2011, call 912-437-4770 for 2012 date  
Blessing of the Fleet – April 1, 2, 3, 2011 (2012 will be April20, 21, 22)  
Red, White & Blues on the Bluff – July 2, 2011  
Sapelo Cultural Day – October 15, 2011  
Darien Fall Fest – November 5, 2011  
The Lighting of the Luminaries on Vernon Square – December 1 or 8, 2011

**Story Ideas:**
Searching for Darien’s River Monster, The Altamahaha  
Local Dining  
Sapelo Island’s Gullah Geechee Culture  
McIntosh Shouters  
Kayaking from The Georgia Coast Mothership
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Smallest Church in America
Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge
Annual Blessing of the Fleet
Ashantilly, Thomas Spalding’s mainland home & oldest example of tabby construction in Georgia
Blackbeard Island National Wildlife refuge
Fishing - Inshore and Offshore, as well as crabbing, shrimping and fly-fishing
Historic Churches and Cemeteries
Historic Markers of substantial national history sites
Kings Grants, Doboy Island and shipping chandlery
Fort King George—a pre-revolutionary fort (first fort on GA soil) built by Carolina Rangers
Scottish Heritage and the founding of Darien
Colonel John McIntosh, the Scotsman who wouldn’t stay buried
Darien-Historic Port of the Timber Days
Catching, processing and exporting wild Georgia jellyfish and fresh water eel for export
Harris Neck Historic Land/Plantation Tours
Altamaha River and its estuarine system
Sapelo Island National Marine Estuarine Research Center

Annual Events:

February
Darien Lions Club Oyster Roast  http://galions.org/18b/DarienLionsClub.htm
Dinner with General James Oglethorpe  www.gastateparks.org/fortkinggeorge; ftkgeo@darientel.net
Valentine Tea at Ashantilly  www.ashantilly.org

March
St. Patrick’s Day Parade & Celebration  www.friendsofshellmanbluff.org
Scottish Heritage Day  www.gastateparks.org/fortkinggeorge; ftkgeo@darientel.net

April (or March depending on the tide)
Annual Blessing of the Fleet Festival  www.blessingofthefleet.com

July
Red, White & Blues on the Bluff  www.visitdarien.com
Cannons Across the Marsh  www.gastateparks.org/fortkinggeorge; ftkgeo@darientel.net
Cap’n Hap’s Kingfish Bash  www.bashonthebluff.com/
Sapelo Open Kingfish Tournament  www.sapelosaltwaterfishingclub.com

August
Darien Lions Club Low Country Boil  http://galions.org/18b/DarienLionsClub.htm

September
Ashantilly Ice Cream Churn-Off  www.ashantilly.org
Chamber of Commerce Auction  www.visidarien.com
“A Murder Mystery in Colonial Darien” at Fort King George  www.gastateparks.org/fortkinggeorge; ftkgeo@darientel.net

October
Sapelo Island Cultural Day  www.sapeloislandgeorgia.org
Colonial Coast Birding Festival  http://www.coastalgeorgiabirding.org/
Altamaha Riverkeeper CLAM JAM  www.altamahariverkeeper.org

**November**
Darien Fall Fest  www.DarienFallFest.com
The Debatable Land  www.gastateparks.org/fortkinggeorge; ftkgeo@darientel.net

**December**
Christmas at the Reynolds Mansion on Sapelo Island  sapelovc@darientel.net  912-437-3224
Darien Christmas Parade  http://mcintoshchristmasparade.com/history.htm
Colonial Christmas at Fort King George  www.gastateparks.org/fortkinggeorge; ftkgeo@darientel.net

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