



## Forts

**M**ore than 140 years of military history can be experienced through visits to Georgia's coastal forts.

The forts built along the Georgia Coast protected the colonists from Spanish, French and Indians, and later attempted to protect Savannah and its port from Union forces during the Civil War. Many of the forts or their sites can be visited today, exhibiting such things as intact earthworks and re-created structures that allow you to imagine military life in previous eras.

### Day 1 - Colonial Forts

**MORNING:** The English knew the need to protect their new Georgia lands from the Spanish in the early 1700s. From 1721 until 1736, **Fort King George** in Darien was the southern outpost of the British Empire in North America. **General James Oglethorpe** brought Scottish Highlanders to the site in 1736. Today you can spend a morning exploring replicas of the **cypress blockhouse**, barracks and palisaded earthen fort at this Georgia State Historic Site.

Have a lunch of Wild Georgia Shrimp at one of the restaurants in Darien or 30-40 minutes south on **St. Simons Island**.

**AFTERNOON:** Explore the archeological remnants of **Fort Frederica** on St. Simons Island, protected by the **National Park Service**. Georgia's fate was decided in 1742 when Spanish and British forces clashed on St. Simons Island. Fort Frederica's troops defeated the Spanish, ensuring **Georgia's future as a British colony**.

**LATE AFTERNOON:** Travel about an hour's drive north of Fort Frederica to the fort known as **Fort Morris**, **Fort George** and **Fort Defiance**. Our young nation had to avert threats from the British during its earliest years, so Fort Morris was fortified and garrisoned by 200 patriots in 1777 on the **Medway River at Sunbury**. The British captured this fort in 1779, renamed it **Fort George**, but then abandoned it later that year. **Fort Defiance** was constructed at the site in 1814, as the need arose to again

defend Sunbury and the river from the British during the War of 1812. **Fort Morris** and **Sunbury** played a minor role in the American Civil War, with Union troops removing some of the fort's cannons to be taken to Union-controlled forts on the coast.

Make your way back to Savannah for an family meal at **The Lady & Sons**, then to your room in one of **Savannah's** comfortable hotels or bed-and-breakfast lodgings. hotel in Savannah.

### Day 2 - Civil War Forts

**MORNING:** After breakfast, make your way to **Fort Pulaski National Monument**, a marvel of 19th-century engineering that saw battle during the **American Civil War**. Explore the fort, take a tour, or enjoy the scenic marsh and water views of **Cockspur Island**.

Have lunch on nearby **Tybee Island**. Share a Low Country Boil platter big enough to feed

a bus full of hungry travelers, sample crisp salads topped with fresh seafood, or dig into a classic cheeseburger. **Tybee restaurants offer it all!**

**AFTERNOON:** On the other side of Savannah from Tybee, **Fort McAllister** sits on the banks of the **Ogeechee River** in Richmond Hill. This scenic park showcases the best-preserved earthwork fortification of the **Confederacy**. The earthworks were attacked seven times by Union ironclads but did not fall until 1864 – ending **General William T. Sherman's "March to the Sea."** Explore the grounds with cannons, a furnace, bombproof, barracks, palisades, and a **Civil War museum** with artifacts, a video and gift shop. If you reserved one of the cabins near the marsh or a spot in the shaded campground, you can relax at the end of the day, make s'mores and look at the stars in the night sky.

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