



**Get Out. Get Dirty. Get Fit.**

## Albany/Valdosta Area State Parks and Historic Sites FACT SHEET

- **GEORGIA VETERANS STATE PARK**

2459 U.S. Highway 280 W  
Cordele, GA 31015

### ABOUT GEORGIA VETERANS STATE PARK

Established as a memorial to U.S. veterans, this park features a museum with aircraft, armored vehicles, uniforms, weapons, medals and other items from the Revolutionary War through the Gulf War. The Lake Blackshear Resort and Golf Club is a privately operated conference center with 78 lodge rooms, 10 cottages and a restaurant. The SAM Shortline Excursion Train runs through the park on its way from Cordele to Plains, allowing riders to see an antique telephone museum, Habitat for Humanity's Global Village, President Jimmy Carter's boyhood farm and other attractions. An 18-hole golf course and pro shop, along with 8,600-acre Lake Blackshear, make this one of Georgia's most popular state parks.

**Key Activities:** Hiking - 1 mile of trails, Boating and Waterskiing - private boats permitted, Boat rental, Fishing - bass, crappie, catfish, bream, Birding, Golf, Disc Golf

**Facilities:** 1,308 Acres, 77 Tent, Trailer, RV Campsites (\$25) – cable TV hookups.  
4 Picnic Shelters (\$50)  
Group Shelter (seats 150, \$200), Pioneer Campground (\$40), 10 Cottages  
The Lake Blackshear Resort and Golf Club, Memorial Golf Course (18-holes), (\$36-\$40)  
The Marina at Lake Blackshear Resort, Beach, R/C Model Airplane Flying Field, Disc Golf Course

**Directions:** Located 9 miles west of I-75 (exit #101) near Cordele on U.S. Hwy. 280

**Reservations:** Camping Reservations (800) 864-7275  
Room/Lodge Reservations (800) 459-1230  
Cottage Reservations (800) 459-1230  
Golf Packages (800) 459-1230  
Golf Pro Shop (877) 736-8897 (229) 276-2377  
Park (229) 276-2371  
SAM Shortline (877) 427-2457

- **JEFFERSON DAVIS MEMORIAL SITE**

338 Jeff Davis Park Road  
Fitzgerald, GA 31750

### ABOUT JEFFERSON DAVIS MEMORIAL SITE

When Confederate President Jefferson Davis and a few remaining staff members crossed the Savannah River into Georgia on May 3, 1865, they were headed for the Western theater of war where Davis planned to unite rebel forces and continue fighting for the "lost cause." On May 9, 1865, they camped in this pine forest, not knowing that pursuit was so close behind. At dawn, they were surrounded by two independent groups of Union cavalry who were unaware of each other's presence. Gunfire ensued until the federal forces realized they had been shooting at one another. Two Union cavalrymen died during the skirmish. Davis was taken prisoner and held in Virginia for two years until released. Today, a monument marks the spot where he was arrested. Visitors can tour the 13-acre historic site that includes a museum, short trail, a gift shop, picnic tables and a group shelter.

Admission: \$1.75-\$3. Group rates available with advance notice.

Facilities: 13 Picnic Sites, Group Shelter (seats 100, \$150), 1/3-Mile Nature Trail, Civil War Museum - film and artifacts, Monument, Gift Shop, Playground

Directions: From I-75 exit #78 go east 14 miles on Ga. Hwy. 32 to Irwinville. Turn left on Jeff Davis Park Road and proceed one mile to the site (on left).

Reservations: Group Shelter Reservations (800) 864-7275  
Historic Site (229) 831-2335

- **LAPHAM-PATTERSON HOUSE HISTORIC SITE**

626 N Dawson Street  
Thomasville, GA 31792

ABOUT LAPHAM-PATTERSON HOUSE HISTORIC SITE

The Lapham-Patterson House is a monument to the imagination, creative engineering and craftsmanship of the Victorian Era. Fishscale shingles, oriental-style porch decorations, long-leaf pine inlaid floors, and a remarkable double-flue chimney with a walk-through stairway and cantilevered balcony exemplify the quality and skill of its Victorian creators. Due to its outstanding architectural significance, the Lapham-Patterson House was named a National Historic Landmark in 1975. Built between 1884-85 as a winter cottage for prosperous shoe merchant C.W. Lapham of Chicago, the residence was well-equipped with its own gas lighting system, hot and cold running water, indoor plumbing and modern closets. Like many other successful Northerners, Lapham came to the bustling resort town of Thomasville for its mild, pleasing climate and the supposed therapeutic value of the pine-scented air. The Laphams sold the winter house in 1894, and it was re-sold in 1905 to James G. Patterson. The Pattersons remained in possession until 1970.

Admission: \$2.50-\$5. Group rates available with advance notice.

Facilities: Guided House Tour, Gift Shop, Picnic Area, and Bus Parking

Directions: Located at 626 N. Dawson Street in Thomasville, Ga.

Information: Historic Site (229) 225-4004

- **REED BINGHAM STATE PARK**

542 Reed Bingham Road  
Adel, GA 316209764

ABOUT REED BINGHAM STATE PARK

Visitors to this scenic park will see an abundance of wildlife, particularly gopher tortoises and "buzzards." During winter, thousands of these large birds, which are actually black vultures and turkey vultures, roost in the trees

and soar overhead. Throughout the year, gopher tortoises may be seen digging their dens in the sandy soil. Alligators, bald eagles, the rare limpkin, herons, indigo snakes and many other species also live in this protected park. Two nature trails wind through a cypress swamp and sandhill area, habitats which are representative of southern Georgia. A 375-acre lake is popular with boaters and skiers, and fishing for bass, crappie, catfish and bream is excellent. Reed Bingham is less than six miles from I-75, making it a relaxing stop for travelers. It was named for Amos Reed Bingham, a local citizen who was instrumental in having the park established.

**Key Activities:** Hiking – 7 miles of trails, Boating, Canoe Rental, Fishing – dock, boat rental, Miniature Golf, Bicycle Rental, Pontoon Boat Tours -- call for schedule, Birding -- Vulture viewing is best in the morning and late afternoon. Best locations are near the bridge and dam in the morning and along the nature trail boardwalk near dusk.

**Facilities:** 1,613 Acres, 375-Acre Lake, 46 Tent, Trailer, RV Campsites (\$22) - cable TV hookups, Pioneer Campground (\$20 and up, organized groups only), 6 Picnic Shelters (\$40) 4 Group Shelters (seat 50–120, \$50–\$200), Swimming Beach, 3 Boat Ramps, Playground, Accessible Fishing Pier

**Directions:** Located 6 miles west of Adel on Ga. Hwy. 37 via I-75 exit #39, and 14 miles east of Moultrie from U.S. Hwy. 319.

**Reservations:** Reservations (800) 864-7275  
Park (229) 896-3551

## A FEW NEARBY GEORIGIA STATE PARKS WORTH THE DRIVE

- **STEPHEN C. FOSTER STATE PARK**

17515 Highway 177  
Fargo , GA 31631

### ABOUT STEPHEN C. FOSTER STATE PARK

Named after songwriter Stephen Foster, this remote park is a primary entrance to the famed Okefenokee Swamp and is one of the most intriguing areas in Georgia. Moss-laced cypress trees reflect off the black swamp waters, providing breathtaking scenery. Visitors can look for alligators, turtles, raccoon, black bear, deer, birds and numerous other creatures while on the park's elevated boardwalk trail or on a guided boat trip. More adventurous visitors may wish to rent motorized boats or canoes for further exploration of the swamp, including a trip to historic Billy's Island. The park office sells drinks, snacks, ice, books and t-shirts. Because the park is located within a National Wildlife Refuge, gates are locked at closing time and an entrance fee is charged.

At the Suwannee River Visitor Center, visitors learn not only about alligators and cypress trees, but also how buildings can be made from recycled car parts and plastics. Located off Hwy. 441 at the Suwannee River bridge, the center mixes environmental education with engineering showmanship. Inside, visitors learn that tannic acid produced by decaying vegetation is what gives the river its tea color, and that unlike other reptiles, mother alligators actively care for their babies. A third of the building materials was made from recycled content, including decking made from plastics, insulation made from newspaper, and a retaining wall made from old dashboards and electrical cables.

**Key Activities:** Canoe and Fishing Boat Rental, Guided Boat Tours, Boating – ramp, 10 HP limit, Fishing, Birding

**Facilities:** 80 Acres, 66 Tent, Trailer, RV Campsites (\$24) – cable TV hookups, 9 Cottages (\$100) Cottage #5 is dog friendly, 3 Picnic Shelters (\$30-\$40), Pioneer Campground (\$40), Interpretive Center, 1.5-Mile Trembling Earth Nature Trail, 25 Miles of Day-Use Waterways, Suwannee River Visitor Center

Directions: Located 18 miles northeast of Fargo via Ga. Hwy. 177.

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

- **GENERAL COFFEE STATE PARK**

46 John Coffee Road  
Nicholls, GA 315549246

ABOUT GENERAL COFFEE STATE PARK

One of southern Georgia's "best kept secrets," this park is known for interpretation of agricultural history at its Heritage Farm, with log cabins, a corn crib, tobacco barn, cane mill and other exhibits. Seventeen-Mile River winds through a cypress swamp where the park hosts rare and endangered plants. The threatened indigo snake and gopher tortoise make their homes in this wiregrass community. Overnight accommodations include camping, cottages, and the Burnham House, an elegantly decorated 19th century cabin perfect for romantic getaways. The park was donated to the state by a group of Coffee County citizens in 1970 and is named after General John Coffee, a planter, U.S. Congressman and military leader.

Key Activities: Hiking - 4-mile nature trail and boardwalk, History and Nature Programs, Fishing, Canoe Rental

Facilities: 1,511 Acres, 4-Acre Lake, 50 Tent, Trailer, RV Campsites (\$23)  
Burnham Cottage (\$150), 5 Cottages (\$90-\$160), Cottage #1 is dog friendly, Group Lodge (sleeps 32, \$250), 7 Picnic Shelters (\$25-\$50), Group Shelter (seats 175, \$135), Pioneer Campground (\$25 and up), Swimming Pool (fee), Heritage Farm, Outdoor Amphitheater

Directions: Located 6 miles east of Douglas on Ga. Hwy. 32.

Reservations: Reservations (800) 864-7275  
Park (912) 384-7082

- **PROVIDENCE CANYON STATE PARK**

Route 1, Box 158  
Lumpkin, GA 31815

ABOUT PROVIDENCE CANYON STATE PARK

Visitors are amazed at the breathtaking colors of Georgia's "Little Grand Canyon." The rare Plumleaf Azalea and other wildflowers, as well as the pink, orange, red and purple hues of the soft canyon soil, make a beautiful natural painting at this unique park. Visitors can enjoy views of the canyons from the rim trail, and backpackers who set off before 4 p.m. can stay overnight along the backcountry trail. Camping and cottages are available nearby at Florence Marina State Park on beautiful Lake Walter F. George. A visitor center explains how the massive gullies (the deepest being 150 feet) were caused by erosion due to poor farming practices in the 1800s.

Key Activities: Hiking - 3 miles of day-use trails, Backpacking - 7-mile backcountry trail  
Picnicking, Photography

Facilities: 1,003 Acres, Visitor Center, 2 Picnic Shelters (\$30), Group Shelter (seats 100, \$75),  
2 Pioneer Campsites (\$30), 6 Backcountry Campsites (\$5/person)

Directions: Located 7 miles west of Lumpkin on Ga. Hwy. 39C.

Reservations: Reservations (800) 864-7275  
Park (229) 838-6202

- **SEMINOLE STATE PARK**

7870 State Park Drive  
Donalsonville, GA 39845

ABOUT SEMINOLE STATE PARK

This southwest Georgia park is on beautiful Lake Seminole, a 37,500-acre reservoir with excellent boating, fishing and birding. Cottages, many campsites and even picnic shelters sit near the water's edge, offering excellent views and quick access to the lake. Because the park surrounds a small cove, visitors usually enjoy smooth water for skiing and tubing. A sand swimming beach is also provided for lake lovers. Wildlife is abundant throughout Seminole, and a nature trail leads past gopher tortoise burrows, a wetland boardwalk and one of the largest Longleaf Pine forests in a Georgia state park. Observant visitors may also see alligators, osprey, bald eagles and other wildlife. Nearby wildlife management areas provide great duck and deer hunting.

Key Activities: Boating and Water Skiing – 5 ramps, Fishing – 3 docks , Swimming, Hiking – 2.2-mile Gopher Tortoise Nature Trail, Canoe Rental, Miniature Golf, Geocaching

Facilities: 604 Acres, Lake and Swimming Beach, 50 Tent, Trailer, RV Campsites (\$23), Primitive Treehouse Camping (sleeps 15, \$35), 14 Cottages (\$100-\$110), Cottages #1 and #2 are dog-friendly, 5 Picnic Shelters (\$30-\$40), Group Shelter (seats 75, \$80-\$90), Pioneer Campground (\$20 and up), Gift Shop

Directions: Located 16 miles south of Donalsonville via GA Hwy 39.

Reservations: Reservations (800) 864-7275  
Park (229) 861-3137

###

**Editor's Notes:**

More information is available at [www.GeorgiaStateParks.org](http://www.GeorgiaStateParks.org) or by calling 1 (800) 864-7275. Thank you for helping promote Georgia's diverse natural and historic resources!

Rates and prices are valid as of May 2008.

**Key Web Address:**

[www.GeorgiaStateParks.org](http://www.GeorgiaStateParks.org)

**Photography:**

High-resolution images of all Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites are available by request.

**Media Contacts:**

Kim Hatcher  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
(404) 657-9855  
[kimh@dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:kimh@dnr.state.ga.us)

Jenny Schmitt  
TedCo Worldwide  
(404) 421-8323  
[jenny@tedcoworldwide.com](mailto:jenny@tedcoworldwide.com)

Colleen Philbrick  
TedCo Worldwide  
(912) 604-1950  
colleen@tedcoworldwide.com