



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

**Coastal Georgia  
State Parks and Historic Sites  
FACT SHEET**

- **CROOKED RIVER STATE PARK**

6222 Charlie Smith Sr. Highway  
St. Marys, GA 31558

ABOUT CROOKED RIVER STATE PARK

Located on Georgia's Colonial Coast, this park offers cozy facilities in a beautiful setting. Campsites are surrounded by Spanish moss-draped oaks, while cottages are set near the river. A nature trail winds through maritime forest and salt marsh, and hikers may see gopher tortoises, fiddler crabs, herons and other coastal birds. The park's nature center features fish, snakes, turtles and other animals native to this part of Georgia. Birding enthusiasts will enjoy the large bird blind that provides close views of painted buntings, redwing black birds and other species. A boat ramp is popular with anglers who often take to the water before sunrise. Visitors may venture to the nearby ruins of the tabby "McIntosh Sugar Works" mill, built around 1825 and later used as a starch factory during the Civil War. Nearby is the ferry and visitor center for famous Cumberland Island National Seashore known for wild horses and mansion ruins.

Key Activities: Saltwater Fishing, Boating and Kayaking – outfitter nearby, Hiking – 4 miles of trails, Birding – Colonial Coast Birding Trail, Miniature Golf, Bicycle Rental

Facilities: 500 Acres, 62 Tent, Trailer, RV Campsites (\$24), 11 Cottages (\$110-\$120), Cottages #10 and #11 are dog-friendly, 5 Picnic Shelters (\$30), Group Shelter (seats 80, \$110) Pioneer Campground (\$25), Boat Ramp and Dock, Nature Center, Bird Blind

Directions: Located 7 miles north of St. Marys on Ga. Spur 40 or 8 miles east of I-95 exit 3.

Reservations: Reservations (800) 864-7275  
Park (912) 882-5256

- **FORT KING GEORGE HISTORIC SITE**

1600 Wayne Street  
Darien, GA 31305

ABOUT FORT KING GEORGE HISTORIC SITE

From 1721 until 1736, Fort King George was the southern outpost of the British Empire in North America. A cypress blockhouse, barracks and palisaded earthen fort were constructed in 1721 by scoutmen led by Colonel John "Tuscarora Jack" Barnwell. For the next seven years, His Majesty's Independent Company garrisoned the fort. They endured incredible hardships from disease, threats of Spanish and Indian attacks, and the harsh, unfamiliar coastal environment. After the fort was abandoned, General James Oglethorpe brought Scottish Highlanders to the site in 1736. The settlement, called Darien, eventually became a foremost export center of lumber until 1925. Using old records and drawings, this 18th century frontier fortification on the Altamaha River has been reconstructed for public tours. Structures include a blockhouse, officers' quarters, barracks, a guardhouse, moat and palisades. A museum and film cover the Guale Indians, the Santo Domingo de Talaje

mission, Fort King George, the Scots of Darien and 19th century sawmilling when Darien became a major seaport. In addition to the many fort buildings, remains of three sawmills and tabby ruins are still visible. This site is on the Colonial Coast Birding Trail.

Admission: Adults \$5, Children \$2.50, Seniors \$4.50, Group tours available for adults and youths that consist of 15 or more people. Reservations required at least one week in advance. Group tours consist of a one-hour living history presentation on a soldier's life and a weapons demonstration. Group rate: \$3.50 per adult or \$2 per child. Picnic area and bus parking available.

Directions: Located in Darien, 3 miles east of I-95 exit #49.

Information: Historic Site (912) 437-4770

- **FORT MCALLISTER HISTORIC PARK**

3894 Fort McAllister Road  
Richmond Hill, GA 31324

ABOUT FORT MCALLISTER HISTORIC PARK

Located on the bank of the Great Ogeechee River south of Savannah, this park is the home of the best preserved earthwork fortification of the Confederacy. The sand and mud earthworks were attacked seven times by Union ironclads, but did not fall until captured in 1864 by Gen. William T. Sherman during his infamous "March to the Sea." Nestled among giant live oaks and beautiful salt marsh, this park is a quiet location for camping, hiking, fishing and picnicking. The park's Civil War museum features an interior designed to resemble a bombproof, containing exhibits and artifacts, a video and gift shop. Three cottages sit on stilts at the marsh edge, surrounded by palm trees and palmettos. The campground is bordered by tidal Redbird Creek, a boat ramp and nature trail.

Key Activities: Hiking and Biking – 4.3 miles of trails, Picnicking, Saltwater Fishing, Fort Tours (call for reservations), Birding – Colonial Coast Birding Trail

Facilities: 1,725 Acres, 65 Tent, Trailer, RV Campsites (\$24), Backcountry Campsites (\$5), 3 Cottages (\$110), Cottage #3 is dog-friendly, 2 Picnic Shelters (\$30), Group Shelter (seats 150, \$200), Pioneer Campground (\$25 and up), Earthwork Fort Civil War Museum and Gift Shop, Boat Ramps and Dock, Fishing Pier, Playgrounds

Directions: Located 10 miles east of I-95 on Ga. Spur 144 (take I-95 exit #90).

Reservations: Reservations (800) 864-7275  
Park (912) 727-2339

- **FORT MORRIS HISTORIC SITE**

2559 Fort Morris Road  
Midway, GA 31320

ABOUT FORT MORRIS HISTORIC SITE

When the Continental Congress convened in 1776, the delegates recognized the importance of a fort to protect their growing seaport from the British. Soon afterwards, a low bluff on the Medway River at Sunbury was fortified and garrisoned by 200 patriots. When the British demanded the fort's surrender on November 25, 1778, the defiant Col. John McIntosh replied, "Come and take it!" The British refused and withdrew back to Florida. Forty-five days later, they returned with a superior force, and on January 9, 1779, Fort Morris fell after a short but heavy bombardment. Under the name of Fort Defiance, this bulwark was once again used against the British

during the War of 1812. Today, visitors can stand within the earthwork remains and view scenic Saint Catherine's Sound. A museum and film describe the colonial port of Sunbury and the site's history.

Directions: Located 7 miles east of I-95 exit #76 via Island Highway and Fort Morris Road.

Information: Historic Site (912) 884-5999

- **HOFWYL-BROADFIELD PLANTATION HISTORIC SITE**

5556 U.S. Hwy 17 N.  
Brunswick, GA 31525

ABOUT HOFWYL-BROADFIELD PLANTATION HISTORIC SITE

This beautiful plantation represents the history and culture of Georgia's forgotten rice coast. In the early 1800s, William Brailsford of Charleston carved a rice plantation from marshes along the Altamaha River. The plantation and its inhabitants were part of the genteel low country society that developed during the antebellum period. While many factors made rice cultivation increasingly difficult in the years after the Civil War, the family continued to grow rice until 1913. The enterprising siblings of the fifth generation at Hofwyl-Broadfield resolved to start a dairy rather than sell their family home. The efforts of Gratz, Miriam and Ophelia Dent led to the preservation of their family legacy. Ophelia was the last heir to the rich traditions of her ancestors, and she left the plantation to the state of Georgia in 1973. A museum features silver from the family collection and a model of Hofwyl-Broadfield during its heyday. A brief film on the plantation's history is shown before visitors walk a short trail to the antebellum home. A guided tour allows visitors to see the home as Ophelia kept it with family heirlooms, 18th and 19th century furniture and Cantonese china. As one of the Colonial Coast Birding Trail sites, Hofwyl-Broadfield offers a nature trail that leads back to the Visitors Center along the edge of the marsh where rice once flourished.

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

Facilities: Guided House Tour, Museum and Film, Gift Shop, Nature Trail, Picnic Area, Bus Parking

Directions: Located between Brunswick and Darien on U.S. Hwy. 17, 1 mile east of I-95 exit #42.

Information: Historic Site (912) 264-7333

- **LAURA S. WALKER STATE PARK**

5653 Laura Walker Road  
Waycross, GA 31503

ABOUT LAURA S. WALKER STATE PARK

Located near the northern edge of the mysterious Okefenokee Swamp, this park is home to many fascinating creatures and plants. Walking along the lake shore and nature trail, visitors may see alligators, carnivorous pitcher plants, the shy gopher tortoise, numerous oak varieties, saw palmettos, yellow shafted flickers, warblers, owls and great blue herons. The park's lake offers opportunities for boating, skiing and fishing, while a swimming pool is available during summer. For boating, a 10-horsepower restriction is in effect EXCEPT between 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. EST and 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Daylight Savings Time. A championship 18-hole golf course, The Lakes, features a clubhouse, golf pro and junior/senior citizen discounts. This is one of the few state parks named after a woman, and its name is richly deserved. Laura Walker was a Georgia writer, teacher, civic leader and naturalist who was a great lover of trees and worked for their preservation.

Key Activities: Swimming Pool (fee), Golf, Fishing – dock, ramp, Boating and Waterskiing -- some horsepower restrictions, Canoe Rentals, Hiking – nearly 3 miles of nature trails

Facilities: 626 Acres, 120-Acre Lake (may close due to low water), 44 Tent, Trailer, RV Campsites (\$23), 9 Picnic Shelters (\$40), 5 Group Shelters (seat 75–165, \$65–\$140), Group Camp (sleeps 142, \$385), 2 Pioneer Campgrounds (\$15-\$25 and up), The Lakes Golf Course (18 Holes,\$33-\$38), Wildlife Observation Platform

Directions: Located 9 miles southeast of Waycross on GA Route 177. Take 1-75 to exit 62, follow US 82 east through Waycross. Or, I-95 to exit 36, follow US 82 west 47 miles.

Reservations: Reservations (800) 864-7275  
Park (912) 287-4900  
Golf Course (912) 285-6154

- **SKIDAWAY ISLAND STATE PARK**

52 Diamond Causeway  
Savannah, GA 31411

ABOUT SKIDAWAY ISLAND STATE PARK

Located near historic Savannah, this barrier island has both salt and fresh water due to estuaries and marshes that flow through the area. The park borders Skidaway Narrows, a part of the intracoastal waterway, and provides scenic camping and picnicking areas. Two nature trails wind through marshes, live oaks, cabbage palmettos and longleaf pines, allowing visitors to watch for deer, raccoon, shore birds and rare migrating birds such as the Painted Bunting. Observation towers provide another chance for visitors to search for wildlife on this beautiful island. A giant ground sloth replica, birding station, nature exhibits and reptile room are featured in the park's nature center.

Key Activities: Hiking – 1-mile Sandpiper Nature Trail (accessible) and 3-mile Big Ferry Trail, Birding – Colonial Coast Birding Trail, Swimming -- pool only, no beach access, Biking

Facilities: 588 Acres, 87 Tent, Trailer, RV Campsites (\$25), 5 Picnic Shelters (\$50), Group Shelter (seats 150, \$250), 3 Pioneer Campgrounds (\$35), Nature Center, Swimming Pool (seasonal, fee, closed Monday and Tuesday), 2 Playgrounds

Directions: Located 15 miles southeast of Savannah on Diamond Causeway. From I-16, exit at I-516 (exit #164A), which turns into DeRenne Avenue. Turn right on Waters Avenue and go straight ahead to Diamond Causeway. Park will be on your left after drawbridge.

Reservations: Reservations (800) 864-7275  
Park (912) 598-2300

- **STEPHEN C. FOSTER STATE PARK**

17515 Hwy. 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 park's 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 horsepower limit, Fishing, Birding, Camping

Facilities: 80 Acres, 66 Tent, Trailer, RV Campsites (\$24) – cable TV hookups, 9 Cottages (\$100), Cottage #5 is dog-friendly cottage, 3 Picnic Shelters (\$30-\$40), Pioneer Campground (\$40), Nature Center, 1.5-Mile Trembling Earth Nature Trail and Boardwalk, 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

- **WORMSLOE HISTORIC SITE**

7601 Skidaway Road  
Savannah, GA 31406

ABOUT WORMSLOE HISTORIC SITE

A breathtaking avenue lined with live oaks leads to the tabby ruins of Wormsloe, the colonial estate constructed by Noble Jones, one of Georgia's first settlers. Jones was an English physician and carpenter who carved out an even wider career in the colonial wilderness. He came to Savannah with James Oglethorpe in 1733 and commanded a company of Marines charged with Georgia's coastal defense. Jones served as constable, Indian agent, surveyor (laying out New Ebenezer and Augusta) and member of the Royal Council. He was also one of few original settlers to survive hunger, plague, Indians, Spaniards and a new environment. The tabby ruins on the Isle of Hope remind us of the dreams and lives of British colonists who settled Georgia. Today, visitors can view artifacts excavated at Wormsloe and a film about the founding of the 13th colony. A scenic nature trail leads to the living history area where, during special programs, costumed staff show skills and crafts necessary to early settlers. During early February of each year, the site hosts "Colonial Faire and Muster" highlighting 18th century life, military drills, craft demonstrations, music and dance. This site is on the Colonial Coast Birding Trail.

Admission: \$2.50-\$4. Group rates available with advance notice.

Facilities: Tabby Ruins, Museum, Gift Shop, Nature Trail, Picnic Area, Bus Parking

Directions: Located 10 miles southeast of Savannah's historic district on Skidaway Road.

Information: Historic Site (912) 353-3023

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**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.

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