



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

**Savannah Area  
State Parks and Historic Sites  
FACT SHEET**

- **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 sawmill and tabby ruins are still visible. This site is on the Colonial Coast Birding Trail.

Facilities: Outdoor Exhibits, Museum and Film, Gift Shop, Nature Trail, Picnic Area, Bus Parking

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 Catherines Sound. A museum and film describe the colonial port of Sunbury and the site's history.

Key Activities: Educational Programs, Historical Research, Picnicking , Birdwatching - Colonial Coast Birding Trail

Facilities: 70 Acres, Visitor Center, Gift Shop, 7 Picnic Sites, 1-Mile Nature Trail, Pioneer Campground (groups only, \$15 and up), Bus Parking

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. Highway 17 N.  
Brunswick, GA 31525

ABOUT HOFWYL-BROADFIELD PLANTATION HISTORIC SITE

This beautiful plantation represents the history and culture of Georgia's 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.

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

- **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

- **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.

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: Park (912) 353-3023

## A FEW NEARBY GEORGIA STATE PARKS WORTH THE DRIVE

- **GEORGE L. SMITH STATE PARK**

371 George L. Smith State Park Road  
Twin City, GA 30471-9649

### ABOUT GEORGE L. SMITH STATE PARK

With natural beauty, lakeside camping and cozy cottages, this secluded park is the perfect south Georgia retreat. It is best known for the newly refurbished Parrish Mill, a combination grist mill, saw mill, covered bridge and dam built in 1880 and now open for tours. Anglers and canoeists can explore the mill pond dotted with Spanish moss-draped trees and home to blue heron and white ibis. Hikers can stretch their legs on 7 miles of trails while searching for lumbering gopher tortoises, Georgia's state reptile. The park is named after one of Georgia's great legislators.

Key Activities: Fishing - boat rentals, Boating - 10 HP limit on private boats, Pedal Boat rentals - (\$3 per person / half hour), Canoeing and Pedal boat rentals, 10 miles of water trails, Walking and Biking - 7 miles of trails, Birding

Facilities: 1,634 Acres, 412-Acre Lake with Boat Ramp, 25 Tent, Trailer, RV Campsites (\$23), 8 Cottages (\$100-\$110), Cottage #4 is dog-friendly, 4 Picnic Shelters (\$35), Group Shelter (seats 50, \$85), Pioneer Campground (\$40 and up), Playgrounds

Directions: Located between Metter and Twin City off Ga. Hwy. 23. Take I-16 exit #104.

Reservations: Reservations (800) 864-7275  
Park (478) 763-2759

- **GORDONIA-ALATAMAHA STATE PARK AND GOLF COURSE**

322 Park Lane, Highway 280 West  
Reidsville, GA 30453

### ABOUT GORDONIA-ALATAMAHA STATE PARK AND GOLF COURSE

This southeast Georgia park is a favorite for picnicking, family reunions and golf. Picnic tables and shelters surround a small lake where visitors can rent pedal boats and fishing boats during warmer months. Docks are available for land-loving anglers, and children will enjoy looking for beaver dams from the observation deck.

Key Activities: Miniature Golf, Pedal Boat Rental (seasonal), Fishing – boat rental; no private boats permitted, Golf (driving range and practice bunker putting green)

Facilities: 462 Acres, 12-Acre Lake, 29 Tent, Trailer, RV Campsites (\$23 / Tent-\$15), 4 Picnic Shelters (\$30), Group Shelter (seats 80, \$75), Swimming Pool (fee, open Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Wednesday – Sunday), Brazell's Creek Golf Course

Directions: Located near Reidsville just off U.S. Hwy. 280. From I-16, take exit #98 or #104.

Reservations: Reservations (800) 864-7275  
Park (912) 557-7744  
Golf (912) 557-7745

- **LITTLE OCMULGEE STATE PARK, LODGE AND GOLF COURSE**

P.O. Drawer 149  
McRae, GA 31055

ABOUT LITTLE OCMULGEE STATE PARK, LODGE AND GOLF COURSE

Conveniently located off Highway 441 in south Georgia, this park features a wide variety of amenities. Golfers can test their skills on the 18-hole Wallace Adams Course with clubhouse, golf pro and junior/senior discounts. Boaters and anglers will enjoy the park's 265-acre lake with swimming beach, while children can rent pedal boats or play miniature golf during summer. The 2.6-mile Oak Ridge Trail winds through scrub oaks and pines towards a buzzard roost and boardwalk. The 60-room lodge offers hotel-style guest rooms, meeting facilities and a restaurant with golf course view. Facilities are available for meetings, reunions, weddings and other group gatherings.

Key Activities: Golf, Fishing, Boating and Skiing – ramp, Canoe and Pedal Boat Rental, Bike Rental, Hiking – 2.6-mile trail and boardwalk, Miniature Golf (seasonal), Volleyball

Facilities: 1,360 Acres, 265-Acre Lake with Beach, 55 Tent, Trailer, RV Campsites (\$22) – cable TV hookups, 10 Cottages (\$85–\$95), Cottages #4 and #6 are dog-friendly, 60-Room Lodge & Conference Center (\$65-\$125), 7 Picnic Shelters (\$45), 2 Group Shelters (seat 50 and 125, \$100-\$210), Pioneer Campground (\$15 and up), Wallace Adams Golf Course (18-Holes) (\$34-\$38), Meeting Facilities, Restaurant, Swimming Pool (overnight guests only), 2 Tennis Courts, Amphitheater, Children's Splash Pad

Directions: Located 2 miles north of McRae via U.S. Hwys. 319 and 441.

Reservations: Reservations (800) 864-7275  
Lodge Reservations (877) 591-5572  
Park (229) 868-7474  
Golf (229) 868-6444

- **MAGNOLIA SPRINGS STATE PARK**

1053 Magnolia Springs Drive  
Millen, GA 30442

ABOUT MAGNOLIA SPRINGS STATE PARK

Magnolia Springs State Park is known for its crystal clear springs flowing 7 million gallons of water per day and the beautiful boardwalk which spans the cool water. During warmer months, visitors may watch for alligators, turtles and other wildlife near the springs. A free, freshwater aquarium features native species, and a 28-acre lake with accessible dock are available for fishing and boating. Numerous picnic shelters and tables are perfect locations for family reunions and birthday parties. During the Civil War, the site was called Camp Lawton and served as "the world's largest prison." Today, little remains of the prison stockade; however, the earthen breastworks which guarded it may still be seen.

Key Activities: Hiking and Bicycling – 5 miles of trails, Fishing – accessible dock, Boating – private boats allowed, ramp, Canoe and Fishing Boat Rental, Swimming (pool only), Picnicking

Facilities: 1,071 Acres, 26 Tent, Trailer, RV Campsites (\$23), 3 Walk-in Campsites (\$15), 6 Cottages (\$100-\$120), Cottage #5 is dog-friendly, 8 Picnic Shelters (\$40), 3 Group Shelters (seat 40-100, \$85-\$150), Group Camp (sleeps 86, \$175-\$460), 2 Pioneer Campgrounds (\$25 and up), Group Lodge (sleeps 16, \$100-\$110), 3 Playgrounds, Swimming Pool (fee), Freshwater Aquarium, Natural Spring and Boardwalk

Directions: Located 5 miles north of Millen on U.S. Hwy. 25.

Reservations: Reservations (800) 864-7275  
Pioneer and Group Camp Reservations (478) 982-1660  
Park (478) 982-1660

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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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