

U.S. News & World Report
24 Top Things to Do in Georgia
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Situated smack-dab in the middle of the South, Georgia offers plenty in the way of Southern charm. But beyond its mouthwatering comfort food and warm hospitality, the Peach State offers travelers tons of attractions to explore. Spend a trip to this Southern gem visiting a replica Bavarian village, traversing historic battlefields and sampling some of the tastiest hot dogs you can imagine. Read on to discover the top things to do in Georgia. (Note: Some tours and excursions may be affected by the coronavirus outbreak. New policies may be in place, including capacity restrictions and parking reservation requirements. Check with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Department of State and local tourism boards before traveling.)

Cumberland Island

Perhaps best known as the island where John F. Kennedy Jr. wed Carolyn Bessette in a secret ceremony, Cumberland Island boasts more than 17 miles of white sand beaches off the southeastern coast of mainland Georgia. Accessible only by ferry (reservations are recommended), the island offers a range of things to do, from tours of the former Carnegie family home and other deserted mansions to outdoor activities like kayaking, hiking, swimming and fishing. Visitors also suggest biking as a good way to see the island. You can rent fat bikes, which are ideal for exploring the island's sandy paths, from the Cumberland Island Ferry after arriving at the island's Sea Camp Dock. If you'd like to stay overnight on the island, you can choose between a campsite and a room at the historic Greyfield Inn.

Callaway Resort & Gardens

No matter the time of year, there's something to see at Callaway Gardens. Located about 80 miles southwest of Atlanta in Pine Mountain, this roughly 2,500-acre destination features gardens, hiking and bike trails, a large lake, a butterfly center (a visitor favorite) and more. During winter, locals and travelers alike visit to view the annual Fantasy in Lights display, explore a Christmas village, decorate cookies at Mrs. Claus' Kitchen and enjoy photo-ops with Santa, among other Christmas activities. Spring brings vibrant azalea blooms, while summer offers days at Robin Lake Beach, fireworks displays and fragrant magnolias. With fall comes colorful foliage, blooming chrysanthemums and the Hot Air Balloon Glow festival. Travelers can stay right on the property in the main lodge, a cottage or an upscale villa in the woods, though some past visitors cautioned that the lodge and cottages need an update.

Andersonville National Historic Site

History buffs won't want to miss the Andersonville National Historic Site. Situated about 125 miles south of Atlanta in Andersonville, the site is home to the most well-known Civil War prison camp. Travelers can listen to an hourlong self-guided audio tour while driving through the property or explore parts of the nearly 27-acre site on foot. While there, take a walk through Andersonville National Cemetery, a final resting place for U.S. soldiers who died in combat dating back to 1864. Reviewers also recommend the National Prisoner of War Museum and say hiring a guide can be helpful if you want to learn more. Nearby lodging options include Best Western and Hampton Inn outposts in the small town of Americus; a wider variety of accommodations can be found about 60 miles northwest in Columbus.

Also listed were Stone Mountain Park, Centennial Olympic Park, Georgia Aquarium, Savannah, World of Coca-Cola, the village of Helen, Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park, Margaret Mitchell House, hot dogs at The Varsity, Cloudland Canyon State Park, Six Flags Over Georgia, Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, Howard Finster's Paradise Garden, Historic Oakland Cemetery, Roosevelt's Little White House State Historic Site, North Georgia's wine country, View the highly regarded Cyclorama in Atlanta, Providence Canyon State Park, St. Simons Island, Lake Lanier, and Dahlonega.