



The Gateway to the Georgia Coast & Cumberland Island

Cumberland Island National Seashore:

Celebrated 50 years as a national seashore in October



2022! - "Land & Legacies" van tours. These motorized guided "north end tours allow visitors to cover much more of the island than what one could see hiking on their own for a day trip. Sites may include

Plum Orchard, the First African Baptist Church, and the Stafford Plantation site. The tour begins once you arrive on the island, at 9:45 a.m. and lasts approximately 6 hours. The fee for this tour is in addition to the ferry fee and park user fee. Advance [ferry reservations](#) are highly recommended. This is a "behind the scenes" type tour with limited availability. *There is a **National Park APP** on the App Store and Google Play and there are [nine interpretive panels with an audio tour](#) option at each spot on the island.

Walks & Trails:

- The [St. Marys Tabby Trail](#) is an educational and scenic "work in progress." It's an 11-mile (22 miles roundtrip) bike and multi-use path from St. Marys Waterfront Park to Crooked River State Park. Comfort stations are located at Sweetwater Park on Pt. Peter Road and at the McIntosh Sugar Mill Tabby Ruins on Ga Spur 40 (across from the Stimson Gate of Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay). Restrooms and a Bike Repair Station are located at the St. Marys Waterfront Park. **Paths are still in progress along the route.**
- Rivers are trails, Too! The Georgia Coast Saltwater Paddle Trail, which includes St. Marys, is designated as a Nation Recreation Trail.
- Tommy Casey Memorial Dog Park – Enjoy a #petfriendly vacation while visiting this pet paradise.
- The [St. Marys History Walk](#) offers a 600-foot loop trail with 24 interpretive panels highlighting the cities rich history from the time of the Timucua, ship building and shrimping, Cumberland Island, and military history.
- Camden County is on the [Colonial Coast Birding Trail](#) (Woodbine, Crooked River State Park, Downtown St. Marys, and **Cumberland Island** are all-natural sighting locations).
- Gum Branch Park & Nature Preserve is a 359-acre public biking and walking trail that includes a disc golf course in Kingsland and the Woodbine Riverwalk is in nearby Woodbine.

St. Marys Classic Museums and Attractions:

- St. Marys Aquatic Center is great summertime fun for kids of all ages. Season opens in April and ends in September. The [St. Marys Submarine Museum](#) offers memorabilia and artifacts from World War I to present. The [Cumberland Island National Seashore Museum & War of 1812 Display Room](#) exhibits the island lifestyle plus artifacts from the Forgotten Battle – one of the last battles of the War of 1812 took place in St. Marys in January of 1815. The oldest marked grave in [Oak Grove Cemetery](#) is dated 1801 and there are more Revolutionary War patriots buried here than in any other Georgia cemetery.

Festivals:

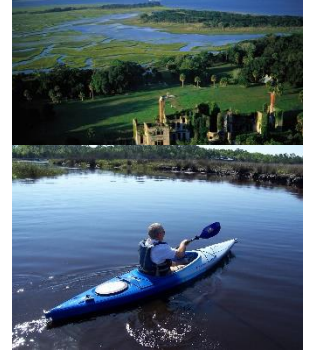
- Our two largest events are the Independence Day Festival on July 4th, and the St. Marys Seafood Festival scheduled the first Saturday in October each year. Our newest events are the family-friendly St. Marys Mardi Gras Jubilee, a Sunday afternoon event, and the Fat Tuesday Fest that happens Tuesday night with an Illuminated Parade and a free concert in the Park.

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Noteworthy:

- New in 2023: The [St. Marys Intracoastal Gateway Marina](#) offers electric service, water, pump-out service, and 25 to 30-foot slip depths with no extra fees for wide beams. There's a nearby boater's lounge with TV and WIFI, bathrooms with showers, and free laundry. You'll also find a secure mail room, loaner bikes, and dock carts for guest use. A golf cart (driven by staff) is often available for a lift to one of our local businesses, but you are steps away from the locally owned downtown shops and restaurants.
- Kayaking, boating, inshore and offshore fishing. Up the Creek Xpeditions offers War Canoe Tour. Kayak and Skiff rentals are available at Crooked River State Park. Knucklehead's, at the waterfront park, offers rentals of SUP's and kayaks.
- Wildlife: birding, sea turtles, manatees, wild boars, water otters and more.
- One of the last battles fought in the War of 1812. Bicentennial date for area battle – 1/2015.
- The Carnegie lifestyle on Cumberland Island.
- Tragic Acadians who sought refuge in St. Marys. Historic cemetery includes Acadians.
- The [Cumberland Island Quarter](#) was released in 2018.
- [Camera Ready Community](#) designation. A feature film and two TV pilots have been filmed in recent years. A music video was filmed on Cumberland Island. In 2012, St. Marys was an integral part in the filming of Lovetown, USA and participated in several other filming projects including Royal Pains. Parts of Dumbo were filmed in 2018 and Dr. Sleep in 2019.
- Cumberland Sound Ferry serves as the Florida/Georgia [East Coast Greenway Connection](#). Pre-arranged group ferry service to Fernandina Beach with or without bikes is available.
- Binational Peace Garden Trail opened in 2012. The Binational Tourism Alliance created the trail as a tourism initiative to stimulate cross border tourism from Canada, highlighting the War of 1812. The garden commemorates war, celebrates 200 years of peace and prosperity between the two nations, and is the southeastern most point on the trail.



Trip Extenders within a 1 ½ hour drive:

- Okefenokee Swamp
- Brunswick, St. Simons Island and Jekyll Island
- Darien and Sapelo Island
- Savannah, Richmond Hill, Tybee Island
- Amelia Island and Jacksonville, Florida

Accolades:

- "18 of the Best Places to Visit in Georgia" - Trips to Discover
- "The Prettiest Town in Every U.S. State" - Architectural Digest
- "The Most Beautiful Vacation Spots in Each State" - TheInsider.com
- "The Prettiest Small Towns in Georgia" - Southern Living Magazine
- "Top 5 Unspoilt Beaches - USA" - Waterlogic
- "Destination - St. Marys, Georgia" - Marine Life Magazine
- "The Best Small Towns on the Georgia Coast" - VisitSouth.com
- "Where's the best beach in America?" - Time Magazine
- "10 Secret Beaches to Put on Your Bucket List" - Yahoo! Travel
- "Top 10 U.S. Travel Destinations" - Lonely Planet

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