



## Are We There Yet?, LLC

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# Georgia's Treasured Isles

***Spend five nights on Jekyll Island with beach access!  
Plus enjoy three cruises and dinner in our friend's home  
October 13-18, 2018***

Try out this tour for those of you who love the beach, water, sun and the laid back life on the islands of Georgia. We wanted to offer locations and attractions you most likely have not experienced along with the personal interaction with friends we have made through our years of visiting Jekyll and St Simons. Cumberland and Sapelo will be firsts for us too.

### **Saturday, October 13 – Fly in for our week of fun in the sun!**

We meet at the St. Louis Airport before our flight to Jacksonville, Florida, the closest airport to the Golden Isles of Georgia. We then take a short trip to Jekyll Island where we arrive at the Hampton Inn located a short stroll from the beach. Enjoy a wine reception in the lobby as our bags are delivered to our rooms and familiarize yourself with the hotel. Unpack and spread out your things in the room as we are here for the week. Then put on your sandals and take short stroll downstairs out by the pool area and through the maritime forest of live oaks to a beautiful beach! You will see all the locals walking, biking and combing the beach. Tonight we will have dinner at a local favorite. There will be lots of selection for both seafood and non-seafood lovers alike. **(D)**

### **Sunday, October 14 – Jekyll Island Tram Tour, Sea Turtles, Dolphin Watch and Beach combing**

After breakfast this morning we experience all things Jekyll! Meet our local guide who will share loads of information about the area and what we will experience today.

In 1886, Jekyll Island was purchased to become an exclusive winter retreat, known as the Jekyll Island Club. It soon became recognized as “the richest, most inaccessible club in the world.” Club members included such notable figures as J.P. Morgan, Joseph Pulitzer, William K. Vanderbilt, and Marshall Field. Members prized the island for its “sense of splendid isolation,” beautiful landscape, and moderate climate. Jekyll Island, with its cottage colony and clubhouse, was viewed as a little paradise, where members and guests pursued “a life of elegant leisure.” Here, they enjoyed a variety of outdoor pursuits, such as hunting, horseback riding, skeet shooting, golf, tennis, biking, croquet, lawn bowling, picnics, and carriage rides. Today, the former Club grounds comprise a 240-acre site with 34 historic structures. The Jekyll Island Club National Historic Landmark District is one of the largest ongoing restoration projects in the southeastern United States, attracting curious guests from around the world.

First we embark on a Dolphin Watching Cruise with Captain Phil his dock here on Jekyll Island. We take an eco-friendly craft out for an hour and a half journey in search of these amazingly playful and intelligent creatures. Capt. Phil will regale us with stories and even if we do not see dolphins, we will still have a great time cruising on the water.

Back on land we enjoy a **Historic District Private Tram Tour**, where our guide will enthrall us with stories and tales of this incredible island. We will also tour inside two structures on the island that have been restored, most often the Chapel and a historic home, but it is at our guide's discretion.

Next we will enjoy a tour of the **Georgia Sea Turtle Center**. Not an aquarium as one might think, but a hospital for sea turtles! Through sea turtle rehabilitation, research and education programs, the Georgia Sea Turtle Center increases awareness of habitat and wildlife conservation. The exhibits are entertaining & educational. You will be able to observe the treatment center, as well as a variety of endangered turtle species such as the giant loggerhead turtles, each in their own private hospital rehab tank.

Enjoy lunch on your own as there are many choices of restaurants, including the, Doc's Snack Shop, Courtyard at Crane, Jekyll Island Club Grand Dining Room, Club Café and the Pool Bar & Grill at Jekyll Island Club. Then enjoy a stroll on the driftwood beach with our guide.

Tonight we enjoy dinner at another local favorite. **(B,D)**

### **Monday, October 15 – Historic St. Mary's and Cumberland Island**

Enjoy breakfast and then we depart for historic St. Mary's, Georgia, a lovely coastal town along the St. Mary's River and the coast of the Atlantic Ocean, just a stone's throw away from the Florida line. St. Mary's acts as the gateway to the Cumberland Island National Seashore, the largest of the Georgia Coast's barrier islands. From the first inhabitants, the

Timucua, to the landing of the English to the battles of the American Civil War, St. Mary's has stood the test of time. Orange Hall will be our first stop. This museum and wedding venue is an antebellum Greek Revival home c. 1830 - 1838. Sitting gracefully, just four blocks from the riverfront, Orange Hall takes its name from the sour orange trees at the rear of the house. The home is on the National Register of Historic Places and was occupied during the Civil War by the Ninth Maine Regiment, serving as its headquarters.

Next we board the ferry for Cumberland Island for the 45 minute ride. Cumberland Island is one of the Sea Islands of the southeastern United States and is the largest in terms of continuously exposed land. It is located on the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Georgia. The first inhabitants were indigenous peoples who settled there as early as 4,000 years ago. Historical records indicate that until 1681, there were approximately 300 natives and several Spanish missionaries living on Cumberland Island. In 1683, French pirates attacked Cumberland Island, looting and burning many of the buildings. Many of the natives and the Spanish missionaries fled the island. English General James Oglethorpe arrived at the Georgia coast in 1733 and established a hunting lodge called Dungeness. When Naturalist William Bartram visited the island in 1774, the island was mostly uninhabited. Revolutionary War hero Nathaniel Greene acquired most of southern Cumberland Island as a result of a business deal used to finance the army. Greene died and his wife, Catharine, remarried Phineas Miller and they built a huge, four-story tabby mansion on top of a Native American shell mound. She named it Dungeness, after Oglethorpe's hunting lodge.

While Sea Island cotton was by far the largest and most valuable commercial crop, other documented agricultural products such as indigo, rice, and food crops were also grown. Rice sloughs are still visible on the island through satellite imagery.

In the 1880s Thomas M. Carnegie and his wife Lucy bought land on Cumberland for a winter retreat. They began building a mansion on the site of Dungeness, though Carnegie never lived to see its completion. Lucy and their nine children continued to live on the island, naming their mansion Dungeness after that of Greene. Today, the ruins of this mansion remain on the southern end of the island. The Carnegie family owned 90% of the island.

In 1954 some of the members of the Carnegie family invited the National Park Service to the island to assess its suitability as a National Seashore. In 1955 the National Park Service named Cumberland Island as one of the most significant natural areas in the United States and plans got underway to secure it. Other owners on the island were encouraged to sell to the National Park Foundation. The US Congress established Cumberland Island as a national seashore in 1972.

After our tour of Cumberland Island we return on the ferry and enjoy dinner at a local favorite in St. Mary's. **(B,D)**

### **Tuesday, October 16 – Sapelo Island (pronounced sa-pay-lo)**

After breakfast at the hotel, we venture off to cruise to another Georgia island. Sapelo Island, most of which is owned by the state of Georgia, is reachable only by boat, departing from the Sapelo Island Visitors Center in McIntosh County, Georgia, a seven mile/ 30 minute trip. Your tour guide, JR Grovner is one of only 48 Sapelo Island residents and a direct descendant of African-American slaves that worked on the island. He still resides on this beautiful island with deeply rooted history. This is a place where it feels as though time stands still, where nature and the Gullah - Geechee culture of Hog Hammock are of uppermost importance.

The R.J. Reynolds' mansion reflects a very different part of the island's history. Former owner Reynolds founded the Sapelo Island Research Foundation in 1949. He later funded the research of Eugene Odum, whose 1958 paper *The Ecology of a Salt Marsh*, won wide acclaim in scientific circles. Odum's paper showed the fragility of the cycle of nature in the wetlands, and his research done on Sapelo helped launch the modern ecology movement. Reynolds' widow, Annemarie Reynolds, sold Sapelo to the state of Georgia for \$1 million, a fraction of its worth, in two separate transactions in 1969 and 1976. The latter sale resulted in the creation of the Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve, a state-federal partnership between the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and NOAA (the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)

We will explore the island, enjoy lunch while here and experience its unique local culture and history with an insider's perspective that only a native of Sapelo can give. We will see Native American shell mounds, visit the tabby ruins of an old French estate, check out Nannygoat Beach, see tabby ruins of the slave cabins, and you might even want to climb the Sapelo Lighthouse!

Our dinner this evening is on own and you might want to try some of the food at The Turtle Nest located inside our hotel. Featuring an extensive pub menu and full service bar, they will have something for everyone. You may also want to walk or take the complimentary hotel shuttle elsewhere on the island to find some interesting choices including the Red Bug Motors Pizza or Tortuga Jacks. **(B, L)**

### **Wednesday, October 17 – Island Hopping to St. Simons with a dinner in a private home!**

After breakfast at the hotel, the morning is yours to spend as you please. Walk along the beach, visit the shopping area, take the shuttle to Jekyll Island Club, walk along the nature trails. We make our way to St Simons Island, the largest of the Golden Isles for time for strolling and shopping and lunch. On our guided tour we will explore Ft. Frederica where Georgia's fate was decided in 1742 when Spanish and British forces clashed on St. Simons Island. Ft. Frederica's troops

defeated the Spanish, ensuring Georgia's future as a British colony. Tour the scenic Christ Church and St Simons Lighthouse and the Historic Coast Guard Station Museum & Maritime Center. We end our day with dinner in a private home for a traditional Golden Isle meal. It is always a fun party and Anna has a beautiful home. We then depart to make our way back to Jekyll Island. **(B, D)**

#### **Thursday, October 18 – Farewell to Jekyll**

All good things must come to an end, and it is time to pack your bags for the bellmen, enjoy breakfast at the hotel and the last morning walk along the beach. We depart for Jacksonville airport for our 1:40 p.m. flight back to Saint Louis. Thank you for traveling with us! **(B)**

#### **Tour includes:**

- Round trip flights from St. Louis to Jacksonville, Florida (1 hour from Jekyll Island, GA) on Southwest
- All nights are at the Hampton Inn with a fully stocked bar, outdoor pool and beautiful boardwalk to beach
- 10 meals, including 5 Breakfasts, 1 lunch, and 4 dinners, and Wine & Cheese Welcome Reception
- Eco-friendly Dolphin Cruise and 2 cruises to Sapelo & Cumberland Islands
- Tours of the Jekyll Island historic district and St Simons, with visit to historic buildings
- Dinner in a private home at our friend Anna's on St. Simons Island
- A visit to the Sea Turtle Center, where injured Sea Turtles are healed and rehabilitated
- 2 Lighthouses: St. Simons & Sapelo Island
- All Activities as indicated
- Baggage Handling at the hotel
- Professional Tour Directors Dea Hoover and Declan Rutan
- All gratuities including step-on guides, included meals, driver and director

#### **Tour Price:**

\$1,855 per person double occ when paying by credit card  
\$2,324 pp single     \$1,704 pp triple and quad

**Save 3% on this tour! Enjoy incredible food in incredible locations, including Block Island, for just \$1,799 per person double occ when paying by check!**

**\$1,799 per person double occ**

**\$2,268 pp single     \$1,653 pp triple & quad**

*Please note: Any notice of fuel surcharges imposed by carriers and/or attractions will be disclosed at least 30 days prior to tour departure. Itinerary is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.*

***Make your reservation today with a \$200 deposit per person plus Trip Cancellation and Interruption Insurance if you choose to take it. By purchasing this insurance when you make your initial deposit, you will be protected in case something happens before or during the tour that prevents you from traveling with the group, even if it is a pre-existing condition.***

***Balance on base tour price is due August 10, 2018, and no refunds will be given after that time except via Travel Insurance. Note this price reflects airfare when purchased at final payment. If you attempt to book after this date, there may be a substantial increase in price or you may have to arrive on a separate flight. Once this tour fills, a wait list will be formed. Please send a check or call with a credit card along with your name, address, phone number, all roommates' names if you are sharing a room and any dietary or walking restrictions. If you have a TSA Pre-Check or Global Entry number to be added to your flight as well as a Rapid Rewards number with Southwest Airlines, please submit those at time of final payment with your legal name and date of birth.***