



Get Out. Get Dirty. Get Fit.

Fun Facts About Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites

- **STATE'S LONGEST BRIDGE:** Georgia's longest covered bridge -- The 229-foot covered bridge at Watson Mill Bridge State Park is Georgia's longest covered bridge.
- **SOUTH'S TALLEST WATERFALL:** The South's tallest waterfall -- At 729 feet, Amicalola Falls is the tallest waterfall east of the Mississippi River.
- **ONE OF AMERICA'S LARGEST SWAMPS:** At 438,000 acres, the Okefenokee Swamp is one of the largest swamps in the United States. S.C. Foster State Park serves as the western entrance, allowing visitors to rent boats, camp, sleep comfortably in cottages, fish or take guided pontoon boat tours. The sex of baby alligators – sometimes seen within the park -- is determined by egg temperature during incubation. Cooler eggs develop females and warmer eggs develop males.
- **OLDEST STATE PARK IN THE NATION:** Indian Springs is thought to be the oldest state park in the nation, visited by Creek Indians who believed the natural springwater had healing qualities. In 1828 it was designated "Indian Springs Reserve." Today, visitors still collect the odiferous water that loses its sulfur taste after sitting a few hours.
- **ONE OF THE WORLD'S RAREST TREES GROWS HERE:** The tongue-twister name of Gordonia-Alatamaha State Park comes from the Gordonia tree (one of the world's rarest trees) and the original spelling of the nearby Altamaha River. This native Georgia plant was once thought extinct, but is now commonly grown in gardens, especially in the South. A member of the Theaceae family, the same as the Camellia, this tree has oval, mat green leaves and white, fragrant August to September flowers.
- **WE HAVE THE LITTLE GRAND CANYON:** Poor farming practices during the 1800s led to the beautiful geography of Providence Canyon State Park. Parts of Georgia's "Little Grand Canyon" are 150 feet deep. Because it reaches the water table, much of the trail is covered in a thin layer of water.
- **AMERICA'S GOLD RUSH STARTED HERE:** Our nation's gold rush began in Dahlonega, not California as commonly believed. You can see coins minted in Georgia and hear the story of this exciting time in history at Dahlonega Gold Museum State Historic Site.
- **WAR ENDED HERE:** In 1864, General Sherman's infamous "March to the Sea" ended at Fort McAllister State Historic Park, enabling him to present Savannah as a Christmas present to President Lincoln, thereby ending the Civil War.
- **A PRESIDENT'S HOME:** FDR's Southern Getaway -- The Little White House in Warm Springs, now a state historic site, was the only home that President F.D. Roosevelt purchased for himself. While visiting this rural Georgia town, FDR crafted many New Deal policies that still benefit Americans today.
- **A HOUSE WITH NO RIGHT ANGLES AND PLENTY OF EXITS:** Lapham-Patterson House in Thomasville is said to have no right angles because they were considered unnatural and unhealthy during the Victorian era. Built by a Chicago shoe merchant who nearly perished in the city's great fire of 1871, each room has an easy exit from the house.

- **ON THE SILVER SCREEN:** Hollywood in Georgia -- Georgia's state parks and historic sites have hosted Hollywood filmmakers over the years. "The General's Daughter" was filmed at Wormsloe Historic Site; "Warm Springs" was filmed at Roosevelt's Little White House; and "Deliverance" was filmed at Tallulah Gorge State Park.
- **ONE MYSTERIOUS WALL:** One of Georgia's archaeological mysteries is the 855-foot rock wall at Fort Mountain State Park. Although theories abound, no one knows who built the wall or why. One of the more creative explanations is that it was built by the "Moon-Eyed People" (presumably Caucasians with blue eyes).
- **...AND ONE REALLY RUDE GUEST:** Cherokee leader James Vann once fired a pistol at dinner guests through the bedroom floor in Chief Vann House Historic Site.

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Editor's Notes:

More information is available at www.GeorgiaStateParks.org or by calling 1 (800) 864-7275. Thank you for helping promote Georgia's diverse natural and historic resources!

Key Web Address:

www.GeorgiaStateParks.org

Photography:

High-resolution images of all Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites are available by request.

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