



HISTORIC ST. MARYS COASTAL GEORGIA

St. Marys Convention & Visitors Bureau

Discover History & Nature
Cultural Heritage
Eco-Tourism
The Gateway to Cumberland Island

Cumberland Island National Seashore:



- “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 currently an additional \$45 and advance reservations are highly recommended. This is a “behind the scenes” type tour with limited availability.
- Cumberland Island National Seashore celebrated 40 years as a seashore on October 23, 2012.
- Named to the “Where’s the best beach in America?” list – Time Magazine (July 2015); “10 Secret Beaches to Put on your Bucket List” by Yahoo! Travel (July 2015); “Top 10 US Destinations List 2014” by Lonely Planet (12/2013); Best US Southern Islands” by Travel Channel (1/2013).

Noteworthy:

- St. Marys Peace Garden joined the Binational Peace Garden Trail 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.
- Rivers are trails, Too! The Georgia Coast Saltwater Paddle Trail, which includes St. Marys, is designated as a Nation Recreation Trail. The designation was celebrated in June 2012 with activities including kayak and paddleboarding demonstrations, education on “Leave No Trace” practices and a one-hour river clean-up by kayak.
- The St. Marys Railroad offers theatrical train excursions throughout the year. Themes for the hour and a half ride have included the Pirate Express, Easter Bunny Express, Santa Express, America’s Heroes and Wild West Express.
- Tommy Casey Memorial Dog Park – Enjoy a #petfriendly vacation while visiting this pet paradise.
- The St. Marys History Walk was dedicated in March 2016. The 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.

St. Marys Classic Museums and Attractions:



- St. Marys Aquatic Center is great summer time fun for kids of all ages. Season opens in April and ends in September. Orange Hall is an Antebellum house museum circa 1830s that is open daily for guided tours. The Greek Revival architecture of the mansion makes it a centerpiece of downtown St. Marys. The St. Marys Submarine Museum offers memorabilia and artifacts from World War I to present. The museum celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2016. 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. An Historic one hour “tram” tour of downtown St. Marys is available by advance reservation.

ST. MARYS CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU | 400 OSBORNE STREET | ST.MARYS, GA 31558

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Festivals:

- Our **Mardi Gras Festival** is held the Saturday before Ash Wednesday each year and is a family-friendly celebration with a parade, vendors, and an adults-only evening ball. St. Marys **Independence Day Festival** falls on July 4th and features a patriotic parade, music, street vendors and fireworks over the St. Marys River. Don't miss the **Rock Shrimp Festival** the first Saturday each October. The parade, vendors and seafood dinners make a perfect day. Visitors also enjoy events like: the **Scarecrow Stroll**, the **Haunted History Tour**, **White Lighting Parade**, **Christmas in the Park**, and the **Christmas Tour of Homes**.

Story Ideas:

- Kayaking, boating, inshore and off shore fishing. Up the Creek Xpeditions offers War Canoe Tour. Kayak and Skiff rentals are available at Crooked River State Park.
- 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.
- Culinary Stories on the variety of food choices and St. Marys famous Rock Shrimp.
- Tragic Acadians who sought refuge in St. Marys. Historic cemetery includes Acadians.
- The Cumberland Island Quarter that will be minted in 2018.
- Camera Ready Community designation. A feature film and two TV pilots have been recently 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.
- 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.

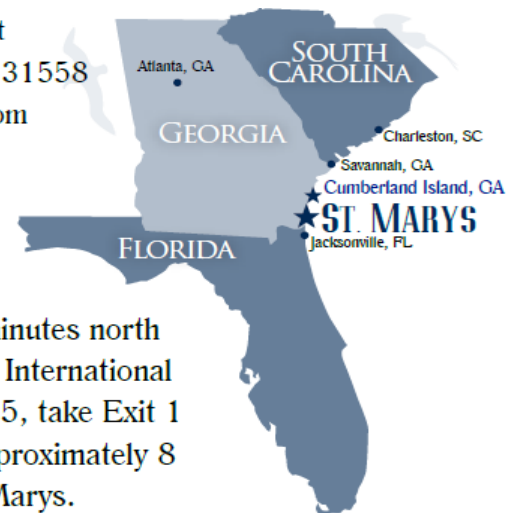


Trip Extenders within a 1 ½ hour drive:

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

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St. Marys is 20 minutes north of the Jacksonville International Airport. From I-95, take Exit 1 or Exit 3, then approximately 8 miles east to St. Marys.