

## The Best Small Towns on the GA Coast

*Get a taste of the coastal South*



*The coast is always magical, but there's something special about the Georgia coast. Quieter and less developed than its neighbors to the north and south, a trip to the Georgia coast is a little bit like taking a time machine to a slower, quieter time. A trip to one of these time-capsule towns may convince you to fall in love with the Georgia coast, too.*

### St. Marys

**[I'm always raving about St. Marys](#)** (*pictured at right*), but there's a reason for that: It really is the perfect coastal small town. Just 45 miles north of Jacksonville, this waterfront town is postcard-perfect. Stroll down Osborne Street (*pictured above*)—the town's main drag—to the St. Marys River, where you can spy barrier islands stretching out to the horizon. Settle in with a giant plate of fried shrimp and sweet potato fries at Langs Marina Restaurant or mosey up to the bar at Seagles Saloon to down a few beers with the locals.



### Isle of Hope

Isle of Hope is just 15 minutes and a narrow bridge away from Savannah, but it feels like another world. For one thing, there's exactly one retail establishment in the town—a little shop on the marina that sells popsicles, fishing bait, and other essentials. Watch the fishing boats come in at the marina or take a hike through the lush maritime forest. Check out the summer mansions built by Savannah's elite during the 1800s, which include lovely Greek Revival, Neoclassical, and Victorian homes. Whatever you do, don't hurry.

### Darien

The coastal tidewater town of Darien is little more than an old-fashioned fishing village—and therein lies its charm. Georgia's second-oldest city is home to the carefully reconstructed Fort King George, which marked the southernmost British outpost in the New World during the 1700s, and to Butler Plantation, one of the first rice plantations in Georgia. Explore the still-bustling waterfront and the picturesque town squares, lined with historic buildings.

*One of the best ways to soak up the magic of the Georgia coast is with a road trip.*