

NMLA 2021 MARINE LENDING CONFERENCE



DOWNTIME ACTIVITIES JOURNAL

ST. SIMONS ISLAND, GEORGIA

FISHING FOR FUN:

The Golden Isles' unique and dynamic ecosystem offers a variety of experiences for all anglers and nurtures a wide range of species. Charter a fishing boat and head for deep water in search of kingfish, cobia, or snapper. Enjoy seine netting from the beach, or crabbing and fishing from one of the many piers throughout the area. Try your hand at fly fishing the coastal marshes for redfish and skipjacks.

The State of Georgia requires a fishing license for anyone planning to fish during their visit. Visit the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for more information.

WHERE TO FISH

Here are some of the top Golden Isles fishing locations:

ST. SIMONS ISLAND PIER is a popular spot among locals for fishing and crabbing. There are several cleaning stations on the pier, and a nearby bait and tackle shop that offers both advice and supplies.

JEKYLL ISLAND PIER is great for fishing and crabbing. Located next to Clam Creek Picnic Area, it's a family-friendly area for visitors and locals to relax.

GASCOIGNE BLUFF PIER, located on St. Simons Island at the eastern end of Torras Causeway, is a popular spot for fishing and crabbing. The area is also home to annual fishing tournaments.



BIKING THE TRAILS:

Discover the charm of St. Simons Island via bicycle**. There are more than 50 miles of paved bike paths on St. Simons and Jekyll islands combined, including a newly constructed path leading to the far north end of the Island along Lawrence Road passing Frederica Park along the way. Bike mid-island along Frederica Road, explore the many shopping districts, enjoy views of the Sea Palms Golf Course, and stop for a snack at a variety of restaurants along the way. If you're looking for a more leisurely bike ride, explore the south end of St. Simons Island and Pier Village. No matter where you decide to bike, you will be surrounded by beautiful mossy live oaks, marshlands, river views and ocean views. You will pass historic markers and sites around every bend and you may even see a tree spirit or two.

****Day ride guide to Simons Island available from NMLA's registration desk**

BIKE RENTAL OUTFITTERS:

BIKE ELECTRIC: 191 Palm St, St. Simons Island - (912) 504-2453

ISLAND BICYCLE: 507 Ocean Blvd, St. Simons Island - 912-268-2541

TWO BROTHERS BIKE SHOP: 227 Mallery Street, St. Simons Island - (912) 638-6766

OCEAN MOTION: 1300 Ocean Blvd, St Simons Island, GA 31522 - (912) 638-5225



HORSEBACK RIDING

Experience the romantic side of St. Simons Island on horseback. Choose from beach locations or go for something a little more historic through the famous Musgrove Plantation. Then tour the woods of Frederica Township through **THE STABLES AT FREDERICA**. The stables sit on 60 acres of beautiful land and rides are fit for riders of all experience levels. Beach rides offer a chance to see the Sea Island coastline and marsh rides are a great option for those who want the chance to see wild heron, ospreys, bald eagles, dolphins and more.

150 Frederica Stables Drive St. Simons Island, GA 31522, Telephone: (912) 634-1500

GOLDEN ISLES HORSEBACK RIDING has trail rides going out every day on regular trail rides and also horseback riding on the beach on Jekyll Island (Closed on Mondays.). Located 25 minutes from the hotel by car, the cost is \$69 per person for an hour's ride on the beach.
Telephone: (912)-635-9500



BEACH RELAXATION:

The beaches of the Golden Isles have something for everyone, from shelling, to strolling, to fishing in the surf, to swimming, to plain old relaxing, or even biking at low tide! Golden Isles public beaches feature the ever-popular **EAST BEACH** on St. Simons Island, and the iconic **DRIFTWOOD BEACH** on Jekyll Island.

BARRY'S BEACH SERVICE is located at the yellow umbrella down the beach from the King and Prince Hotel. Through Barry's Beach Service, you can rent an umbrella/two chairs, paddle boards, boogie boards, banana bikes and even a 16 ft. catamaran.

420 Arnold Road, St Simons, GA 31522 <http://www.stsimonskayaking.com/> (912)-638-8053.



ST SIMONS ISLAND TREE SPIRITS TRAIL

Hidden in many centuries-old live oak trees around the island are the beautifully weathered faces of the island's beloved tree spirits. Located in seven spots over St. Simons Island,

finding these mysterious faces are worth the search. The legends and stories of these carvings are worth a read. Discover where you can find these mystifying tree spirits by following the map (*available at NMLA's registration desk*).



ST SIMONS LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM

The St. Simons Lighthouse Museum is located near the village and pier. The Lighthouse and Keeper's Dwelling were built in 1872 to replace the original lighthouse built in 1810 by James Gould of Massachusetts, the first lighthouse keeper. The original lighthouse was destroyed by Confederate forces in 1861 to prevent the beacon's use by Federal troops during the Civil War. The Lighthouse is one of only five surviving light towers in Georgia. The Lighthouse still serves as an active aid to navigation for ships entering St. Simons Sound, casting its beam as far as 23 miles to sea. Visitors may climb the 129 steps to the top to experience spectacular, panoramic views of the coast including Jekyll Island, the mainland (Brunswick), and the south end of St. Simons Island. The Keeper's Dwelling is a two-story Victorian structure that was the home of lighthouse keepers from 1872 until the 1950s. Today it houses the Lighthouse Museum, and includes interactive exhibits, rare artifacts, and period rooms that reveal the history of St. Simons Island and the life of a lighthouse keeper.

101 12th Street
St. Simons Island, GA 31522
(912) 638-4666

Monday – Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

\$12 for Adults

Combined Tickets (World War II and Lighthouse Museum)
\$20 for Adults

WORLD WAR II HOME FRONT MUSEUM

The World War II Home Front Museum is located in the Historic Coast Guard Station at East Beach. The new Museum brings to life Coastal Georgia's extraordinary contributions during World War II. Through immersive exhibits and interactive experiences, visitors will learn

about blimps on anti-submarine patrol, radar training to direct fighter pilots, building Liberty ships to supply troops overseas, and much more.

**4201 1st Street
St. Simons Island, GA 31522
(912) 634-7098**

Monday – Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

\$12 for Adults

**Combined Tickets (World War II and Lighthouse Museum)
\$20 for Adults**

EXPLORING THE GOLDEN ISLES BY KAYAK

The unique ecology of coastal Georgia creates breathtaking land and seascapes among marsh wetlands, inlets, and rivers. It's a nature lover's paradise, with abundant wildlife and numerous opportunities to explore the unspoiled barrier islands. The Golden Isles have fast become a favorite destination of those seeking fun on the water. The diverse waterways of the Georgia coast allow for watersports adventures from mild to wild. Regardless of your seafaring (or river-faring) vessel of choice, you'll find the ideal waters for canoeing, kayaking, and paddle boarding in the Golden Isles.

The tides have significant effects on the Georgia waterways and shores. You'll notice that local guides tend to operate on hours that are dictated by changing tides, and you should keep this in mind when setting out on your own as well! Tide charts for the Golden Isles may be the most important item on your checklist before heading out for your excursion. There are four tides per 24-hour period – alternating low and high tides, roughly six hours apart. At any given point, the difference in water depth between low and high tides can be up to seven feet. Low tides mean wider beaches and shallower, narrower rivers. Seasons and moon phases will also cause tidal shifts.

Nearly all kayak rentals will include necessary safety equipment. If you are new to kayaking, it is advisable to take advantage of guided tours for your kayak trips and take kayak safety very seriously. Most tour companies provide basic lessons for beginners prior to hitting the open waters. If you are setting out on a self-led tour, never explore alone! Make sure to consult with an area guide or outfitter for a quick check on your equipment and plans, as well as some handy local tips!

OUTFITTERS:

BARRY'S BEACH SERVICE: 420 Arnold Road, St Simons, GA 31522
<http://www.stsimonskayaking.com/> Telephone: (912)-638-8053

SOUTHEAST ADVENTURE OUTFITTERS: 313 Mallery St, St Simons, GA 31522
<http://www.southeastadventure.com/> Telephone: : (912) 638-6732

TURTLE TIDES OUTFITTERS KAYAKS AND PADDLEBOARDS
130 Pier Village Market,, Mallery Cir, St Simons, GA 31522
<https://www.turtle-tides.com/> Telephone: (912) 222-2190

OCEAN MOTION SURF CO: 1300 Ocean Blvd, St Simons, GA 31522
<http://www.stsimonskayaking.com/ocean-motion.html> Telephone: (912) 638-5225

RETAIL THERAPY AND DINING

Located on the midpoint of the Island near the traffic circle, **ST. SIMONS' REDFERN VILLAGE** district offers an array of shops, restaurants, professional offices and eclectic storefronts tucked away in a shady village setting. You'll find plenty to eat or stores to visit, including antiques and artwork, gifts and jewelry, clothing, home accessories, outdoor equipment, as well as casual and fine dining, bars and nightlife for a lively scene both day and night.



BIRDING GEORGIA STYLE

Georgia's Colonial Coast Birding Trail extends from Savannah southward to St. Mary's, and westward to the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. More than 300 species of birds have been spotted along the Trail's 18 sites, five of which are located in the Golden Isles. Depending on the time of year, you can spot unique species of birds almost anywhere in the Golden Isles. Sightings can include birds of prey such as bald eagles, waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, gulls, and many more.

Depending on how much time you have, you have a number of options to choose from: You can start your bird watching journey at Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation on Hwy 17, just north

of Brunswick. From there continue south on the trail to Gould's Inlet and East Beach on St. Simons Island. If you have the time, continue on to the Jekyll Island Causeway, crossing the famous Marshes of Glynn. The remaining two Trail sites are on Jekyll Island—Driftwood Beach on the northern shore, and South End beach, including St. Andrews Picnic Area.

GEORGIA GRAVES is a local naturalist and available to give tours along the beach with some notice for \$20 per person. **Telephone: 912-266-2473.**

CARRIAGE TOURS ROCKEFELLER STYLE:

THREE OAKS CARRIAGE AND TRAIL offer leisurely narrated carriage tours of the beautiful historic district of nearby Jekyll Island. See the cottages of Rockefeller, Macy, Goodyear, Faith Chapel and many more.

364 Riverview Dr, Jekyll Island, GA 31527 – Telephone: (912) 635-9500

