



Discover with Nature on

Little St. Simons Island

Experience tranquility on the Georgia coast and the spectacular ecological riches found on Little St. Simons Island. The privately owned barrier island is accessible only by boat and has been managed as a nature sanctuary for generations.

Its wetlands, woods and shell-strewn coastline beckon exploration by foot and kayak. A prime spot for bird-watching, it offers close-up views of migratory birds feeding in the morning shadows and surf. Whether you paddle through tidal creeks and salt marshes or stroll through maritime forests with moss-draped oaks, you'll be certain to enjoy this incredible retreat.



Photos: Sunset on Little St. Simons Island, GA © Marc Del Santoro; Bird Blind, Little St. Simons Island, GA © Erin Crowther/TNC

Trip Highlights

- Writing Workshop! Author and writing teacher Janisse Ray will join the trip for several days to share stories, accompany outings, and lead participants in journaling sessions.
- Hop in a truck for a guided excursion with naturalists who live and work on the island.
- Tuck into a bird blind to observe egrets, wood storks, herons and roseate spoonbills.
- Kayak along tidal creeks surrounded by thousands of acres of protected coastal salt marsh.
- Scan the shores and marshes for shorebirds and American alligators.



Georgia's Little Amazon: A Treasure of Natural Beauty and Biodiversity

Known as “the Amazon of the South,” the Altamaha River Delta is a sprawling treasure of natural beauty that connects the Altamaha River and Atlantic Ocean. Passionate Georgians like Jane Yarn, Altamaha Riverkeeper James Holland, and The Nature Conservancy’s Christi Lambert have secured critical protections for this region’s natural places. Yarn purchased Egg Island in 1969 for conservation, and she also supported the acquisition of Wolf and Little Egg Islands. The three islands now comprise the Wolf Island National Wildlife Refuge at the mouth of the river. This acquisition drove incredible momentum for TNC to continue conservation upstream where more than 42 miles of contiguous forest have been protected along the Altamaha River.

Just south of Wolf Island, Little St. Simons Island lies within a wilderness of barrier islands dotted with old-growth maritime oak forests, mudflats, untouched marshes and sand spits. Rivers and tides shaped this ancient place, creating a diversity of landscapes. Visitors will find critical cypress swamps and saltwater estuaries that provide resources and pathways for wildlife. The broader delta includes notable species like the West Indian manatee, shortnose sturgeon and Atlantic sturgeon.

Photo: Directional Signage, Little St. Simons Island, GA © Erin Crowther/TNC

Itinerary Overview

DAY 1

Sunday, June 21

Please plan to arrive at Jacksonville Airport by 11:30 a.m. The group shuttle will depart at 12:00 p.m. for your 1.5-hour drive to Hampton River Marina on Saint Simons Island. The boat from the marina to Little St. Simons Island will depart at 2:00 p.m. On the boat ride, you will get the chance to cruise through coastal Georgia salt marshes; keep an eye out for wildlife!

Please be aware that accessing the island ferry includes a floating ramp at both the marina and the island that can be steep during low tide, as well as a few stairs up onto the boat.

After settling into your rooms, we will congregate at 6:00 p.m. for a social half hour, during which you can meet your fellow travelers and your hosts. Enjoy appetizers while relaxing in the shade of ancient moss draped oaks. The Lodge’s chef will have dinner prepared by 6:30 p.m. and we will move to the dining room. At 7:45 p.m., you will learn more about the ecology of the surrounding area and what you can expect for the week ahead.

DAY 2

Monday, June 22

Continental breakfast will be available beginning at 7:00 a.m. for those who wish to grab a quick bite and head out on their own early. At 7:30 a.m., a morning birding excursion will be offered, with the group returning to the Lodge in time for a hot breakfast. At the 9:00 a.m. group breakfast, a naturalist will share the activity options for the day and can answer any questions you may have. Enjoy an evening social at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m.

This evening after dinner, we will be joined by award-winning environmental author Janisse Ray, who will orient you by telling a few stories about her region and introduce the creative options that will take place over the next two days.

DAYS 3-5

Tuesday, June 23- Thursday, June 25

The format of each of these days will closely resemble Day 2, with a morning and an afternoon activity and all meals together. On Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon, Janisse Ray will provide an extraordinary opportunity for you to find creative and inspiring ways to connect with Little St. Simons Island and its remarkable ecology. See below for a description of these activities.

DAY 6

Friday, June 26

We hope that you enjoyed your stay on Little St. Simons Island and are returning home with many memories! After breakfast, the boat between the island and the marina will depart at 10:00 a.m. As a group, depart the marina for Jacksonville Airport to catch your flight home or to your next destination.

Invaluable Habitat for Iconic Seabirds and Shorebirds

More than 55,000 resident and migratory shorebirds and seabirds use the Georgia coast each year. Located within the Atlantic Migratory Flyway, Little St. Simons Island hosts more than 280 species of birds. On its beaches, visitors can observe a range of pelicans, terns, skimmers, kingfishers as well as a host of shorebirds. Within the island's forests, trails and ponds, visitors may also see owls, woodpeckers, herons, ibis, spoonbills and more. The National Audubon Society declared the delta as one of the top 500 Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBA) nationwide.

An Ancient Land of Rich Cultural History

Altamaha River Delta's cultural history is equally rich. For millennia, the Muscogee Creek, Yamasee, and Guale peoples stewarded these lands and used the Altamaha River for transportation, fishing and agriculture. Archaeological artifacts suggest that Indigenous peoples lived along the Altamaha River's banks for more than 5,000 years.

Water Connects Us All

Our work in this region is contributing to our global goal of safeguarding 60,000 miles of the world's most precious sources of fresh water. As the global population soars, demands for food, energy, and shelter are putting unprecedented pressure on our planet – and water is at the heart of this crisis. The Nature Conservancy's plan is to fundamentally change the way our most precious resource – water – is used and managed so that nature and people can thrive together.

Island Activities

FEATURED Nature Writing Workshop

Explore the natural world during two nature-journaling sessions led by Janisse Ray! Whether you regularly record your thoughts and observations or want to test the waters of creativity, this session will guide you in exploring landscapes, wildlife, and botanics, as well as the remarkable connections between humans and nature. Through thoughtful discussions, creative exercises, and outdoor observations, you'll learn techniques and practices you can carry home with you to deepen your experience on the island and bring the natural world to life on the page. Pens and paper will be provided, but feel free to bring your favorite writing implements.

North End Adventure

Enjoy a guided informative truck trip up island to learn about the island's cultural and natural history.

Hikes

Embark on a guided hike along the trails with a naturalist. Island hiking includes limited elevation, but the ground may be uneven with roots and dips. Shorter hikes of about a mile and longer hikes of 2-3 miles are available.

Creek Paddling

Explore the tidal salt marshes surrounding Little St. Simons Island by kayak. After a quick refresher on paddling technique, a naturalist will guide you on a leisurely trip through this remarkable habitat. Look for birds and other wildlife you may not be able to see from the trails. Please note: guests with mobility restrictions may not be able to kayak during their visit.

Reptile-Amphibian Safari

Enjoy a guided truck excursion to a variety of habitats in search of native reptiles and amphibians.

South End Adventure

Go on a truck adventure to Little St. Simons Island's south end, where Slash and Loblolly pine trees tower. Learn why the pine forest habitat exists and how fires play an important role in plant succession on the island.

Birding at Myrtle Pond

Join a naturalist on a truck excursion to the viewing towers and blinds at Myrtle Pond to look for waterfowl and wading birds. Blinds are ground level, but towers do require climbing stairs.

Shorebirding

Join one of our naturalists for a shorebirding excursion out at our seven miles of pristine beach habitat.

Boat Tour of Nearby Waterways

Join Island naturalists on a boat-based excursion through tidal creeks and salt marsh habitat.



Island Activities (cont.)

Garden Walk

Enjoy a guided walk through our organic garden to learn about herbs, vegetables, flowers, fruits, cover crops, and compost.

Pond Adventure

Take a tour of the natural freshwater ponds around the island that harbor an abundance of American alligators and wading birds such as herons and egrets.

Downtime

If seeking a quiet afternoon, relax on the banks of Mosquito Creek under a live oak with a good book.

Bike Adventure

Learn more of the flora and fauna on a guided bike adventure with a naturalist as you look for armadillos and resident and migratory birds along the way. Or, join a naturalist to hear how cultural history has shaped the natural history of Little St. Simons. Please note: guests with mobility restrictions may be unlikely to enjoy a bike tour due to island road conditions.

PLEASE NOTE:

All truck-based activities and shuttles require the mobility to be able to get up via a small set of stairs and ride in the back of a modified 4x4 truck.

Lodging & Meals

The Lodge on Little St. Simons

The Lodge on Little St Simons Island is a small operation and a historic property, and guests attending events here should be prepared for a rustic experience. Lodging includes cabins with shared living room spaces, plus rooms in the main lodge itself. Everything is within walking distance of the main lodge.

The Island is also haven for all sorts of wildlife, including mosquitoes and biting insects. Due to our conservation efforts, we do not spray, and bugs are abundant.

A certain amount of mobility is required to enjoy your visit. Most buildings are historic and have a short flight of stairs at the entrance. The main Lodge can be accessed via a small ramp, and the ecolodge is situated on the creek. The beach is approximately two miles from the Lodge compound and is easily accessible by bike. Truck shuttles to and from the beach are also available on request. Please note that after the road to the beach ends, there is an approximately quarter-mile long boardwalk required to access the beach itself.

Dining

All meals are freshly prepared by the Chef and served family-style in the main Lodge at fixed times. The Lodge is happy to accommodate dietary restrictions with advance notice.

Photo: Hiking through Little St. Simons Island, GA © Erin Crowther/TNC



Trip Cost

Double Occupancy: \$3,465/person

Single Occupancy: \$5,275/person

This trip must have a minimum of 24 travelers and a maximum of 30.

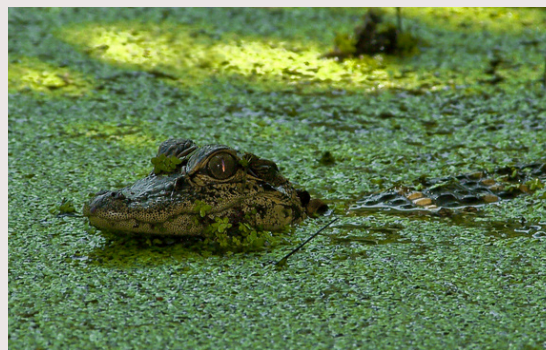
This cost includes:

- Accommodations
- Group ground transportation
- All meals beginning with dinner on Day 1 and ending with breakfast on Day 6
- All activities
- All gratuities
- All guides
- TNC hosts

This cost excludes:

- Travel to and from trip start
- Travel insurance (Highly Recommended)
- Incidentals
- Alcohol

Registration: Please email travel@tnc.org to register.



Photos (from top to bottom): Kayakers in the Salt Marsh, Little St. Simons Island, GA © Parlee Chambers; Royal Terns Along the Beach, Little St. Simons Island, GA © Marc Del Santoro; American Alligator, Little St. Simons Island, GA © Marc Del Santoro; Great Egret, Little St. Simons Island, GA © Marc Del Santoro



Payment & Cancellation Terms

To make trip payments or cancel your registration, please contact Shana Love with The Lodge on Little St. Simons Island at shana@littlessi.com or 912-268-1760.

Deposit:

- A deposit of 50% of the full trip cost is due at the time of registration.
 - Cancellation 90+ days prior to trip start: Deposit is fully refundable, less a \$50 cancellation fee.

Full Trip Payment:

- Full trip payment is due 90 days prior to trip start.
 - Cancellation 0-89 days prior to trip start: Deposit is non-refundable.

Contact Information

As you plan for your journey with The Nature Conservancy and The Lodge on Little St. Simons Island, please feel free to reach out with any questions. To register, please contact travel@tnc.org first. For more information on what to expect during a stay, visit the Lodge website at: www.littlestsimonsisland.com/faq.

TNC Discover with Nature Team

travel@tnc.org

Little St. Simons Island Team

shana@littlessi.com or 912-268-1760

TNC Travel Values

● Access

Travel with renowned Conservancy experts and local partners for an exclusive, on-the-ground experience. You won't just see amazing places, you'll see how you are helping save them.

● Impact

Witness how your commitment to our planet and your passion for conservation are making a difference in the wild places and communities you are impacting.

● Knowledge

Learn how we are applying the latest cutting-edge science to affect global change and drive conservation.

● Inspiration

Immerse yourself in local cultures and awe-inspiring landscapes to foster your own connection to our world.

● Globally Minded

Elevate your understanding of our work by observing first-hand how TNC and our partners act locally and how we turn local results in to global impact by scaling solutions that work.

Photo: Davis Mountain Preserve, TX © Jerod Foster



TNC Traveler Expectations

Group travel with The Nature Conservancy provides our donors with the opportunity to experience, alongside fellow supporters, the places TNC is working collaboratively to advance our conservation mission. Within these curated trips is the chance to engage with a community of active individuals and conservation staff who enjoy teaching and learning about the important conservation work we do and exploring the outdoors.

In order to ensure an enjoyable trip environment that supports learning and enrichment, we need your partnership. We ask that all participants review TNC's Code of Conduct prior to joining a trip. We also encourage you to carefully review all trip information to make an informed decision as to whether travel with TNC and a specific trip's characteristics and activities are right for you. Following the Code is an expectation and responsibility for everyone in the larger TNC community, including our staff, partners, vendors and supporters. To that end, by registering for a TNC trip, you agree to uphold the Code.

While the entire Code of Conduct is important, the tenets that are especially relevant to TNC group travel are:

- respect for each other,
- respect for the world around us, and
- acting with integrity.

The following traveler expectations are intended to provide guidance for how those tenets translate to group travel but are by no means an exhaustive list. By participating in a TNC trip, you make a commitment to act in accordance with the TNC Code of Conduct to your fellow travelers, as well as to TNC staff, partners, community members and vendors. Any violation of or disregard for the Code of Conduct may result in removal from a trip and/or denial of future TNC travel participation.

TNC Traveler Expectations (cont.)

● **Respect all people, places and perspectives.**

Each participant on a trip is an integral part of the travel experience. Demonstrating respect and consideration is imperative not only for nature, local communities and cultures in the places we visit, but also for fellow travelers, staff, partners, community members and vendors. Everyone will bring different goals, backgrounds, experiences and abilities, and it is important that the group respect each individual's perspectives and needs throughout the trip. Sometimes trip participants become lifelong friends, and we encourage the camaraderie and community built through these shared experiences!

● **Harassment in all its forms, including discrimination and microaggressions, is not tolerated.**

There is no place on any TNC travel experience for disrespect to or bullying or intimidation of fellow travelers, TNC staff, partners, community members or vendors. All travelers agree to support an environment free from any behavior that could make an individual feel unsafe or diminish their dignity. If you experience or observe this type of behavior on a trip, please report it to your trip host or guide.

Examples of behavior that will not be tolerated include, but are not limited, to:

- Racial discrimination in any form (jokes, comments and/or actions)
- Verbal abuse of any traveler, staff, partner, community member or vendor
- Actions or statements that exclude or divide people because of their differences or differing perspectives
- Jokes about gender or sexual orientation or that include sexual innuendo
- Discriminatory actions or statements based on gender or sexual orientation
- Unwelcome physical contact or physical intimidation of a sexual nature

● **Act in accordance with the applicable law of the location(s) of the trip.**

Your trip location(s) may have different laws from your home location. You are expected to be aware of and adhere to the trip destination's laws throughout the experience, even when locations change throughout a trip.

● **Employ an attitude of flexibility.**

At times, there may be changes in the itinerary when deemed necessary or advisable for the comfort and well-being of trip members. We appreciate your understanding, flexibility and adaptability in order to make the trip safe and enjoyable for you and everyone else.

TNC and its tour operators reserve the right to deny registration or remove a tour participant from a trip should such person's behavior, health or mental condition impact the safe and equitable operation of the trip.

Thank you for your attention and understanding, and please let a TNC travel representative know if you have any questions in advance of registering at travel@tnc.org.

