



Legacy Journey to Little St. Simons Island

Immerse yourself in the pristine, quiet beauty of Little St. Simons Island and the breathtaking ecological riches of the Georgia coast. This privately owned barrier island is accessible only by boat and has been managed as a conservation property for generations with an on-site ecolodge, open to a limited number of guests year-round. Its wetlands, woods and changing coastline beckon exploration by foot and kayak. Your visit is timed with the peak of shorebird migration. Whether boating on waterways or strolling through maritime forests with moss-draped oaks, you're sure to enjoy this incredible place.



Photos: Maritime forest on Little St. Simons Island, GA © Marc Del Santoro; A close-up look at birds feeding in the morning shallows and surf, Little St. Simons Island, GA © Parlee Chambers

Legacy Journey Highlights

- Kayak along tidal creeks surrounded by thousands of acres of protected coastal salt marsh.
- Scan the shores and marshes for shorebirds and American alligators.
- 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.



Welcome to Little St. Simons Island!

The Nature Conservancy is working with the owners and staff of Little St. Simons Island (LSSI) to ensure the beaches, forests, and salt marshes remain healthy and continue to flourish as an important part of the South Atlantic coastal region—an area that supports one of the East Coast’s most prosperous commercial and recreational fisheries. TNC holds a conservation easement on LSSI and works closely with its ecological manager and staff to recommend best management practices and to determine research and monitoring priorities, putting conservation of the island’s habitats and species first.

Long ago, TNC made the Altamaha River a focus of its freshwater and coastal conservation work, purchasing its first parcels in the watershed in the late 1960s – two small islands formed from the sediment and sand the river washes downstream.

TNC’s long commitment to the Altamaha and coast has become a testing ground for a bold new conservation strategy of protecting entire landscapes and ecosystems, as we have protected more than 280 miles of ecologically important lands within the watershed. By increasing coastal resilience, TNC aims to reduce the growing risks to coastal communities from natural hazards and climate change using natural solutions and smart development.

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

Itinerary Overview

DAY 1

Sunday, March 7

Welcome to Little St. Simons Island!

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 where you can meet your fellow travelers and hosts. Enjoy appetizers while relaxing in the shade of ancient moss draped oaks before moving to the dining room at 6:30 p.m., where the Lodge’s chef will have dinner prepared.

Overnight at The Lodge on Little St. Simons Island, GA

DAY 2

Monday, March 8

Continental breakfast will be available 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.

Overnight at The Lodge on Little St. Simons Island, GA

DAYS 3-5

Tuesday, March 9–Thursday, March 11

The format of each of these days will closely resemble day 2, with a morning and an afternoon activity and all meals together with the group. Find examples of possible activities at the end of the itinerary description.

Overnight at The Lodge on Little St. Simons Island, GA

DAY 6

Friday, March 12

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.



Conservation Highlight: The Altamaha River

With more than 7,400 miles of shoreline, the Georgia coast is among the world's most naturally diverse and intact coastal habitats. With sandy beaches, acres of maritime forests, and nearly one-third of all the salt marshes in the eastern United States, more than 55,000 resident and migratory shorebirds and seabirds use the Georgia coast each year.

The Altamaha River Delta – a 135-square mile area beginning at the Southern tip of Sapelo Island and extending south to encompass Wolf, Egg, Little Egg, and Little St. Simons islands in McIntosh and Glynn counties – is among the most noted Georgia habitats for seabirds and shorebirds, including the American oystercatcher. From the loggerhead sea turtle to the shortnose sturgeon, from the northern right whale to the blue crab, species of all shapes and sizes benefit from Georgia's robust coastal estuaries.

In 1999, the Mexico-based Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network recognized the Altamaha River Delta as the 40th major reserve for shorebirds. The National Audubon Society has designated the delta as one of the country's top 500 Important Birding Areas.

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.

Photo: Guests taking in the view, Little St. Simons Island, GA © Erin Crowther/TNC

Island Activities

North End Adventure

Travel into some of the island's oldest and most ecologically significant habitats while learning about the natural history, ecology, and cultural heritage that have shaped Little St. Simons Island. This unique landscape offers an unforgettable glimpse into one of the region's rarest ecosystems.

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

Kayak through the tidal salt marshes surrounding Little St. Simons Island. After a 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 be unable 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 Excursion

Explore the diverse habitats of Little St. Simons Island alongside experienced naturalists in search of the island's remarkable birdlife, from colorful songbirds to soaring raptors. Whether walking maritime forests, freshwater wetlands, beaches, or salt marshes, each outing is tailored to current bird activity and seasonal opportunities.

Saltmarsh Cruise Aboard "The Skimmer"

Board The Skimmer, the island's 42-foot covered pontoon boat, for a relaxing cruise through winding tidal creeks. As you glide through the expansive salt marsh, enjoy an intimate perspective of one of Georgia's most productive ecosystems. Along the way, keep watch for wading birds, shorebirds, dolphins, alligators, and other wildlife while your guide shares insights into marsh ecology and natural history.

Self-Guided Biking Adventure

Pedal through maritime forest or head to the beach at low tide to enjoy a ride along 7 miles of pristine, undeveloped barrier island shoreline. Whether seeking wildlife, scenic views, or a peaceful way to experience the island, bicycling offers the freedom to explore on your own schedule. Please note: island road conditions may make this activity unenjoyable for guests with mobility restrictions.



Island Activities (cont.)

Birding at Myrtle Pond

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

Garden Walk

Enjoy a guided walk through our organic garden and learn about the 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.

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 easy walking distance of the main lodge.

The Island is also a 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 Island Chef and served family-style in the main Lodge at fixed times. The Lodge is happy to accommodate dietary restrictions with advance notice.



Trip Cost

Double Occupancy: \$3,163/person

Single Occupancy: \$4,975/person

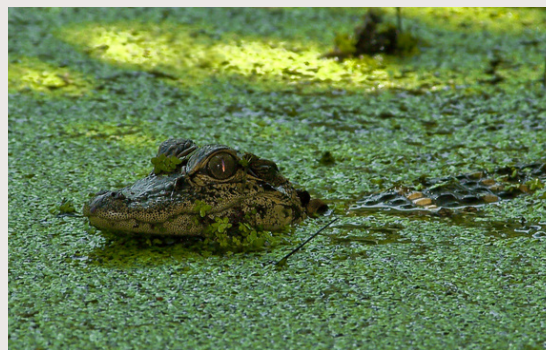
This trip must have a minimum of 24 travelers, with a maximum of 30.

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 and end location
- Travel insurance
- Incidentals
- Alcohol



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.

TNC Legacy Journeys Team

legacyjourneys@tnc.org

317-829-1873

Little St. Simons Island Team

shana@littlessi.com

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 into 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 legacyjourneys@tnc.org.

