

Southeast Getaway Travel Newsletter

May 2010

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History Buffs: Williamsburg, St Augustine, Savannah,



Williamsburg, VA

Williamsburg is in southeastern Virginia on a peninsula between the James and York Rivers, which run into Chesapeake Bay. Settled in 1632, it was Virginia's capital from 1699 to 1779. After time the city declined and it was not until the 1920's that the people took a real interest in Williamsburg. In fact, it was only in 1926 that the idea of excavating and restoring the colonial site of Williamsburg took bloom. The once known Williamsburg went through a complete transformation from an industrial town into a what is now known as Colonial Williamsburg. All year round visitors can observe hundreds of costumed interpreters, wearing bonnets or three-cornered hats. Many inhabitants of the settlement have organized a demonstration of their trades into seminars observed by the public. Historic trade demonstrations, dramatic vignettes, interactive programs and encounters with "People of the Past" take place in 28 exhibition sites and historic trade shops throughout the Historic Area. Visitors can enjoy 18th-century style dining in authentic colonial surroundings at one of Colonial Williamsburg's four operating taverns. Come out and enjoy being part of Colonial Williamsburg living history! [For Accommodations in Williamsburg](#) .

St. Augustine, FL

Visitors to this historic American city feel like they have stepped back in time as they stroll down St. George Street in St. Augustine's historical district. Hundreds of shops, landmarks and specialty gifts such as handmade candles, woven goods and wooden crafts, or resort and beach wear, and await the vacationer. With more than 35 antique shops and 20 art galleries, a bounty of treasures - from original creations by local artisans to valuable heirlooms - await discovery throughout 144 blocks of historic homes and sites. Popular golf and tennis facilities are nearby, as well as boating and fishing. World Golf Village features two world-class resorts, two championship golf courses, unique shopping and dining and is the home of the World Golf Hall of Fame. A few minutes away across the Bridge of Lions, St. Augustine Beach, with its smooth, sandy shores, is a popular seaside destination. Nearby Ponte Vedra Beach is home to some of the most outstanding resorts in the country, with first-class golf and tennis facilities. Families will find much to see and do in the nation's oldest city. From popular attractions, such as 3D World and Ripley's Believe It or Not! Museum, to water-based activities, including jet skiing, sailing and fishing, kids of all ages will delight in St. Augustine. [For Accommodations in St Augustine](#)

Savannah, GA

Located four hours southeast of Atlanta, but a world away from that bustling, modern metropolis, Savannah offers an enchanting stroll back in time. Savannah is widely renowned for its historical features which stand as an open invitation for visitors to uncover its hidden charms. Luscious peach trees, Civil War history, delicious cuisine, and ethnic festivals are part of the Savannah experience. Elegant old mansions and centuries-old cemeteries add to Savannah's rich and colorful history. Savannah's old world grace and Southern hospitality give the city a unique flavor found nowhere else in the world. The meticulous preservation of its historic treasures extends to buildings, parks, and other properties and draws tourists from all over the country. Established in 1733, the city cherishes its reputation as the nation's largest urban landmark - a tribute earned by the city's active role in all facets of American history. [For Accommodations in Savannah](#)

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Dear Harry,

In this month's issue we want to help you find the perfect family vacation. There are many types of family vacations depending on age, distance to travel, and interests. We are going to try to cover wonderful family vacations for varied age levels and interests. One of these suggestions will be just perfect for your family. Check these out right now!!

- [The Nature Buffs: Orlando, FL](#)

Tibet-Butler Preserve

This 440-acre preserve offers opportunities for the whole family to learn about Florida's fragile ecosystem. The on-site Vera Carter Environment Center houses a variety of exhibits on local flora and fauna, and also hosts a plethora of environmental programs, many of them geared toward children. If you're looking for a great way to spend a lazy day, consider a stroll down the miles of trails offered on the preserve, which meanders through pristine wilderness. The Tibet- Butler Preserve was purchased in 1989 by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) through the Save Our Rivers Program, to protect the watershed along Lake Tibet-Butler on the Butler Chain of Lakes. In addition to views of the lake, the Preserve showcases approximately 440 acres of natural Florida, including wetlands, flatwoods, and scrub communities. At present time, six trails meander through diverse plant communities at the Preserve and total approximately four miles. Learning stations dot these trails and correspond to the text in the brochure. In the future, we will continue to open new trails which will traverse deeper into the Preserve and explore more of Florida's natural treasures.

It's the type of place where you can take a quiet walk through the woods and relax on a bench overlooking the edges of one of Central Florida's great lakes. You're guaranteed to see a handful of turtles and there's always the possibility of ospreys, bobcats, turkeys and owls while on the trails. The trails are well-maintained, with portions built as boardwalks that cross the wetland swamp and marsh areas. The most peaceful place at the Preserve is the "Osprey Outlook". Set on the edge of Lake Tibet Butler, this covered pavilion is an excellent spot to rest and enjoy the sounds of nature. Bring a pair of binoculars to spy on all of the wildlife in the area.

For Accommodations in Orlando

- [Hiking Buffs: North Georgia Mountains](#)

Amicolola Falls State Park Trails are located near Dahlonega, Ga the first gold mining town in Georgia. They are located in the beautiful Catta-hoochee National Forest. Amicalola is a Cherokee word meaning "tumbling waters," and Amicalola Falls, formed as Little Amicalola Creek plunges 729 feet in several cascades, is the highest waterfall east of the Mississippi River. The state park has nine hiking trails totaling 6.0 miles and two staircases with 602 steps. You can choose from a variety of easy to short, strenuous climbs. Most are directly associated with Amicalola Falls or are designed to reach a better view of the falls. All trails are well marked and carefully maintained [For Accommodations in Dahlonega](#)

The Appalachian Trail (AT), said to be the longest continually marked trail in the world, begins at Springer Mountain in Georgia and ends 2,100 miles north at Mount Katahdin in Maine. Because of the many approach trails on public land, this trail presents a many-faceted hiking opportunity for thousands of hikers each year. Congress authorized the Appalachian Trail as the first National Scenic Trail in 1968. The Appalachian Trail Conference now has responsibility for the trail.

This trail is also located close to Dahlonega, GA

Appalachian Trail: Neels Gap to Hogpen Gap

Blairsville Georgia Hikes
 Open ridgetops with excellent views, spring and fall wildflower displays, and well-graded trail make this a pleasant hike, and the proximity to Neels Gap makes it popular. This short AT section between two paved roads has one hard climb, out of Tesnatee Gap, which can be bypassed in bad weather. Camping is possible at ridgetops and gaps, and water is available within half a mile of most campsites. The Whitley Gap Shelter is 1.2 miles from the AT, mostly down, on a side trail with good views. If you do take the time and effort to go to this shelter, you will find it either empty and private or full of Boy Scouts. Natural history feature: Raven Cliffs Wilderness Area. [For Accommodations in Blairsville, GA](#)

- [The Romance Buffs: Ashville, NC](#)



Nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Asheville is the perfect destination for anyone who enjoys the beauty, tranquility, and thrill of nature. No matter what your interest may be, Asheville is waiting and ready for you. Asheville has a vibrant downtown, great cultural offerings, professional sports, unique shopping and a host of attractions and sites, both in town and close by, this North Carolina city has it all. Always a favorite for its scenic beauty, in the fall Asheville explodes into an array of colors. As the mild summer days turn into cooler, crisp days and nights, visitors to the nearby mountains begin an annual guessing game of where to catch the best glimpse of Mother Nature's beautiful work. Because of the differences in elevation, there is no single peak week or day for fall color. Unlike other destinations, the mountains near Asheville enjoy an extended five-week fall color season. The peak location actually changes week-to-week, depending on the elevation. Brilliant yellows, reds and oranges begin to appear at the higher elevations even in late September, along with a profusion of wildflowers. The autumn hues intensify and creep down the mountain slopes throughout October. Some coves and gorges will continue show off their fall finery through early November.

For Accommodations in Asheville, NC

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