

GEORGIA TRAVELER 101- ST. SIMONS  
CAPTIONING SCRIPT

(Music)

On the road most every day, looking for a place where you can play, looking for the best place you can stay. From the mountains to the coast, find the trip you'll like the most, may even find a friendly ghost, we're Georgia Traveler. Well, we're from Georgia and we travel, that's why we call it Georgia Traveler, and nothing rhymes with Georgia Traveler, but still we call it Georgia Traveler.

(Music out)

Georgia Traveler is made possible in part by the Georgia Tourism Foundation.

**Woman:**

We all have dreams.

**Man:**

To wear the green jacket.

**Woman:**

To see wild horses.

**Kid:**

To catch a major league ball.

**Man:**

To create memories with my family.

**Woman:**

Put your dreams in motion. Visit Georgia dot org.

**Woman:**

And by...

**Woman:**

People are drawn to this state for its unbelievable beauty. We're working hard to keep it that way. We're Georgia Power, proud sponsor of the programming that also enriches our lives.

**Woman:**

And by...

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**Woman:**

The Supporters of Georgia Public Broadcasting.

**Woman:**

Thank you.

**Gerald Bryant:**

Hello everybody and welcome to Georgia Traveler, I'm your tour guide, Gerald Bryant, we're on St. Simons Island because this week we're visiting Georgia's beautiful southern coast. Here's a look of what's on this week's program.

**Gerald Bryant VO:**

You'll see some of the interesting spirits that watch over St. Simons Island. We also spend an evening at the Jekyll Island Club hotel located in Jekyll's beautiful historic district. You'll see a couple of forts that echo Georgia's beginnings. And we invade Brunswick Georgia's annual Stewbilee.

**Gerald Bryant:**

All those stories are coming up but first we want to share some of the breathtaking sights you'll see when you visit Georgia's coast.

Music

**Gerald Bryant VO:**

Our first stop is Brunswick, gateway to the Golden Isles, just 5 miles west of St. Simons.

**Gerald Bryant:**

Brunswick, Georgia. Normally a laid back coastal community but not today, this town is in a stew, Brunswick stew that is. It's been more than a quarter of a century since team Virginia took home the coveted Brunswick cup, symbol of stew supremacy, but can they go all the way this year? Let's go to Phil Proctor.

**Phil Proctor:**

Thanks, G. Cossell. You know, when you think about great rivalries in football, there's the chiefs and the raiders, the skins and the cowboys. Well, you know what? It's no different here at the Mary Ross Park down here in Brunswick, Georgia. We've got stew wars. That's right, it's a battle of the Brunswick stew. Brunswick County, Virginia versus Brunswick, Georgia. Who makes the better stew?

**Kay Cowart:**

It's a competition between stew masters.

**Man:**

It's about the meat.

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**Man:**

It's the best stew.

**Jan Cox:**

The Stewbilee is bragging rights for the next year.

**Phil Proctor:**

Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the Brunswick Rockin' Stewbilee!

**Phil Proctor VO:**

The Stewbilee festivities are officially kicked off with a 5K and pooch parade, but at the "stew grounds", the judges waste no time getting down to serious business.

**Bob Cunningham:**

Well we've got three categories of primary judging. We have a appearance category, taste and texture. We tell them that in the appearance, obviously it should look like Brunswick stew. The texture category, the meat should be tender, it shouldn't be something that is hard to chew. The vegetables should still have an integrity to them, they shouldn't be mushy. And of course the taste, that becomes even more of a personal preference I think, there are teams that are trying to be distinguishable; there are teams that are trying to make a good statement, so there will be a good variety of taste there.

**Phil Proctor VO:**

Among the many teams representing Georgia are the good folks from the Brunswick Station Café. I took the opportunity to talk with the co-owners of this downtown Brunswick fixture about their business and the business of stew...

**Kay Cowart:**

It seems to be the place to be in Brunswick. If you're looking for somebody for breakfast or lunch, you can just about find them in here. Most of our customer base is- 80% of it is locals and then we have a lot of nice tourists that walk by stop in to get Brunswick stew

**Phil Proctor VO:**

I headed to the kitchen to get the low down on the stew from the café's secret weapon, Jan Cox.

**Jan Cox:**

Well, I'll tell you how I prepare mine except for the little secrets, but Brunswick stew is an oddity in the culinary world because so many different types of stew are called Brunswick stew. Some are soupy; some are stewy; some have vegetables in them like corn, potatoes, tomatoes; others have those same ingredients except they'll add lima beans, beets, peas, okra. So there's really no one-way to cook stew, but of course our way is the best. 'Cause everybody knows what all ingredients that are in there, they just don't know the quantities that are in there or the secret spices.

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**Woman:**

Wonderful.

**Jan Cox:**

But the key is getting all the juices, and spices, and meats, and veggies together. Once those flavors meld, that's when it becomes Brunswick stew.

**Phil Proctor:**

You would rather have your stew cook a day or two ahead of time then take it over the day of the event?

**Jan Cox:**

Absolutely.

**Phil Proctor:**

All right, because there's some people that I talked to, and I won't mention any names-Team Virginia- they say they like to do theirs the day of the event.

**Jan Cox:**

Their stew, well you know it's Virginia, they really don't know the definition of stew, so we'll see. When the day is done, and the people and the judges vote, I think Virginia's going to be running with their tails tucked.

**Phil Proctor VO:**

But team Virginia doesn't seem intimidated- they've been concentrating on their game plan.

**Phil:**

I'm stirring up a pot of stew with the Red Oak Stew Crew. And fellas I appreciate y'all lettin' me stir the pot, now you told me there's a specific way I'm supposed to be doing this, right?

**Dave:**

Yeah.

**Phil:**

Now Dave, you said I was unraveling some things.

**Dave:**

You're unstirring everything we stirred up since three o'clock this morning.

**Phil:**

Oh, ok, so if I go sideways does that help?

**All:**

That would help, yeah.

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**Phil:**

Now what is actually in this particular pot?

**Dave:**

A lot of stew. A lot of it.

**Phil:**

Thanks Dave. I knew you and I would have a great time communicating. Let me be more specific there, David, what ingredients are in the pot?

**Dave:**

Potatoes and onions, butter beans and corn, tomatoes and a little chicken.

**Phil:**

Yeah, you butter bean, you.

**Dave:**

And some more butter beans, and a few lima beans.

**Phil:**

You've got lima beans? What kind of beans now? Is that the kind of beans that... look, anybody into lima beans, look I don't like lima beans, but you know, if you guys are cooking it, and I'm stirring it up, I guess I'll have to eat some of it.

**Phil Proctor VO:**

This crew works hard on their 85 gallons of stew because they've got a lot to prove. After all, there is this long-standing controversy about the origins of Brunswick stew.

**Man:**

There isn't any controversy, it started here.

**Kay Cowart:**

I have heard that it was not made in Virginia

**Bob Cunningham:**

Brunswick stew originated in Brunswick, Georgia. The state legislature has documented that by resolution. There are no living witnesses because it goes back to the seventeenth hundreds, but we have people who will give a sworn affidavit that it started here.

**Phil Proctor VO:**

Georgia claims the first pot of Brunswick stew was made here in this pot, but folks from Virginia's Brunswick County disagree. Regardless, Georgia stew masters aren't scared of the Virginia competition.

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**Women:**

Georgia!

**Carol Dubberly:**

They may be some competition for us because it's different from ours and some people may like it, but I don't think so. (laugh)

And taste is what it's all about. My good friend Gerald Bryant couldn't resist the opportunity to pump up Team Georgia.

Gerald: Thank you. I am an official taster now.

Colonel: Go right ahead.

Gerald: Phil, you're not the only one getting to eat some of this Brunswick Stew today. Oh, team Virginia, watch out! You haven't got a chance. // This is the way I like it, where you can see the meat

Colonel: There's identifiable meat content.

Gerald: I don't like that old mushy stuff.

Colonel: No.

Gerald: This is stew that you... this is stew that you can chew. That's the new catchphrase around here.

Gerald: Once again, Virginia has no chance

Stew Daddy: Yeah!

Gerald: Absolutely no chance.

Stew Daddy: Hit the gong!

While people vote for their favorites, behind closed doors, judges taste and tabulate the scores. Then comes the moment 51 stew teams have all been waiting for...

First place People's Choice this year, with 361 votes, Blackwater Grill! So, if you didn't get any of theirs today, I bet you they'll sell you a bowl.

First Place Judges award, 2005 Stewbilee, First Bank of Brunswick!  
Congratulations!

And it looks like a touchdown for team Georgia. Don't take it too hard, Virginia, there's always next year!

When you visit Georgia's southern coast, you'll certainly want to stop at St. Simons lighthouse...Originally built in 1810 it was destroyed by retreating confederate troops near the beginning of the civil war, they didn't want Union ships to have the use of the light...The current structure was built in 1872 and has been guiding ships ever since.

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**Gerald Bryant VO:**

All around the lighthouse you'll see several live oak trees, and in those live oaks you'll see faces. Or spirits that are watching from above.

**Leslie Faulkenberry:**

About 20 years ago, a sculptor came to St. Simons and asked the director of one of the art centers here for permission to carve some of the faces of some of the lost mariners that he saw hidden in the trees. The image was in there and it just kind of came out.

The artist Keith Jennings is the one that had the idea to sculpt them, he saw already imaginary faces in the trees before he ever started to carve them. And as he would start, I understand he would begin to see, he would let the uh oak tree tell him where to carve and so forth. And that's why they sort of change with age also because as the tree gets older, so do some of the faces.

There are four of them that are on public property in St. Simons and that's a must see.

Some are carved high on the knots of trees, some lower to the ground, others in crevices and tougher to find.

I think the tourists like them a lot, it's sort of a game. I understand from the Chamber of Commerce, people take a map and go around and try to find the faces that he's carved.

And as Mildred Huie Wilcox states, there's a reason all of these carvings are of male mariners.

**Mildred Huie Wilcox:**

One of the things interesting he said to me was that he liked to do men because men had more character when they aged and women didn't really like to see themselves age. I thought that was rather interesting.

Aging with character the tree spirits will continue watching over the people of St. Simons, so while you tour the island, be on the lookout for these majestic trees.

**Tree spirit face:**

Now if the tree spirit is willing, it's time for us to move on down the road.

Next, we'll explore Georgia's colonial beginnings. It's off to Darien, just 23 miles north of St. Simons.

**Woman VO:**

It was a time of empires, colonies and trade. The story of Georgia's settlement begins at Fort King George on Georgia's southern coast.

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It's really a time period in history that is oftentimes overlooked by a lot of historians, and a lot of people. A lot of people think that Georgia started in 1733 and kind of grew from there, but they don't realize that the antecedents to the establishment of Georgia go all the way back to the establishment of Fort King George. With the feud between the Spanish and the British over who had a right to the Altamaha River, it's all pretty much the concept that Fort King George stood for. The true significance of the fort that we try to impart on the public when they come here is that this was the first step in the process toward the establishment of Georgia.

The State of Georgia acquired the land in 1950 and conserves this Historic Site. The Lower Altamaha Historical Society funded the reconstruction of the fort's block house in the 1980s. The State has recently funded additional structures like the barracks and officers' quarters. To help visitors appreciate what life was like during this first period of history at Fort King George, Historic Site staff and volunteers host events like this candlelight tour of the fort.

We light the whole entire fort up by candlelight, torches and lanterns and so forth, and people really like that, it's very beautiful. It's one of the only events where we tell people when they come in: "This is Fort King George 1725 and these are the activities that you would have seen going on at the fort." We have a very talented lady who's very knowledgeable about women's domestic skills who does our baking and brewing demonstration. We have the colonial doctor, the colonial herbalist, we do all of our military weapons: the muskets and the artillery, and we actually stage a debate between a Spanish emissary and the Colonel John Barnwell, who was the colonel here at the fort.

In 1732, King George II of Great Britain granted a charter to James Oglethorpe to establish the colony of Georgia on the land between the Savannah and Altamaha rivers. After establishing the colony at Savannah in 1733, Oglethorpe moved south. One of his first military outposts to help establish Britain's claim was Fort King George.

A lot of the same concepts, ideas and vocabulary that General Oglethorpe used in justifying Georgia was used in establishing Fort King George: the idea of establishing a military buffer zone to keep the Spanish out of the southeast portions of North America and specifically away from the Altamaha River. General Oglethorpe brought 177 Scottish Highlanders here to establish the town of Darien.

Working ever further southward establishing his British colony, Oglethorpe built a town and fort on Saint Simon's Island that same year. It was called Frederica in honor of Frederick, Prince of Wales.

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He may have thought it was going to be his premier town in Georgia and again a colonial fortification for a system and a relatively permanent large scale of work, much more so than anything in Savannah.

Fort Frederica is first and foremost a story of struggle, struggle for the original settlers that came here, arriving from London. Imagine leaving London and arriving in coastal Georgia and dealing with a lot of the difficulties, struggled to really get a foot hold here, and I think the story of Frederica is a struggle between empires. So the struggle between Britain and Spain as to who ultimately was going to own this place.

In 1739, open hostilities between the British and Spanish began in what was known as the War of Jenkins' Ear. When the Spanish attacked St. Simons Island in 1742, troops stationed at nearby Fort King George came to assist at the Battle of Bloody Marsh.

It's an epic tale of a rag-tag regiment of Georgia militia and soldiers that were severely outnumbered by the Spanish. But they stood their ground on St. Simon's Island and according to the records, the bravest fighters were the Scottish Highlanders

General Oglethorpe is often rightly referred to as the father of Georgia. It's a place that with his influences, some amazing things happened. As a military commander, in some ways he got very lucky. But really by being a leader of his men, training them, he did the one thing that the Spanish in a sense were trying to do, he made this place unnecessary, because by defeating those Spanish, it became a place that the British government didn't have to have soldiers at. So from success came ultimate failure for Frederica

After the British regiment disbanded, many of Frederica's residents relocated. In 1758, much of what was left of the old town was destroyed by fire. The site lay dormant until 1936 when Congress created Fort Frederica National Monument. It opened to the public in 1945.

Since that time there has been a lot of effort in preservation of historic resources here. There's ruins and foundations that are preserved. Today we have thousands upon thousands of artifacts that tell their story, the story of daily life here. The main street in town was Broad Street, and we are very fortunate that as we started doing the archeology starting in the late forties that we found these buildings built of brick and tabby, these building really showed that these people meant to stay for a long time. Those foundations as we uncovered them, we left them open to give a better sense of the size of the town. It's a place that would be a field with a bunch of signs in it without those ruins and the foundations. The place provides an opportunity to see a bit of our past. It's a place that helps us recognize that the stories of colonial America are large, that they are in each of our backyards, little places like this that preserve more than just ruins and

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foundations, but they preserve symbols of broken dreams, of people who tried to do something amazing and did something pretty amazing, but also people who weren't able to make it here in coastal Georgia.

(Music cues.)

**Gerald Bryant VO:**

Less than 2 miles by sea, but almost 20 miles by land, just south of St. Simons Island you'll find Jekyll Island, a place with a rich history.

**David Zelski VO:**

Carnegie, Pulitzer, Vanderbilt, Rockefeller.

These men and a handful of others met in Jekyll Island, Georgia nearly one hundred years ago. A think tank that represented at the time over 70 percent of the world's wealth. And from their meetings in Jekyll Island the Federal Reserve was born.

They called it the millionaire's club, a retreat where the richest families in the world could escape the everyday hustle and bustle of city life, and relax along the Southern shores.

**Sue Anderson:**

They were interested in having a hunting club. A hunting retreat in a climate where they could come in their own private yachts. Where they could further their political, financial goals with great ease. I contend that you could go in the dining room at night and if your plan happened to be building a railroad to the Mississippi you could accomplish most of it right in that dining room at dinner.

**Man VO:**

Over recent years, this destination has been restored and expanded, but the aura unchanged...The place, known today as the Jekyll Island Club Hotel, is without a doubt one of the most precious jewels in the Golden Isles.

(Music)

**David Zelski:**

There are several ways to get around Jekyll Island. You can go the lazy route by car, or do it the way they did 100 years ago, by horse, or by...Schwinn? (Bike bell - "ding" "ding")

**Interview with Lady in Blue Suit:**

Absolutely the best way to see Jekyll Island is by bicycle. There are 22 miles of wonderful flat bicycle paths and these take you through the Maritime Forest, the Historic District, along the beach with the dunes, and you can also see of course, the Atlantic Ocean on one side of the island, and on the close side of the island

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your eye can stretch almost to the other side of the county to see the marshes of glen.

**Interview with Kevin Runner:**

You can come with your families and let your kids pretty much ride bikes and be on their own without worrying too much about them getting in any trouble or lost.

**Male VO:**

Georgia Lawmakers decided years ago to preserve these islands along Georgia's coast, and that motto has remained. If you search some of the trails on Jekyll, you'll be surprised what you might find...Whether it's baby raccoons hanging by the water's edge, or an un marked graveyard that tells a story dating back 100 plus years, Jekyll Island is quite unique.

**Interview with Woman:**

If people came here to visit, I would love for them to go home with a greater awareness of what a treasure this is, historically, architecturally, naturally. And because of the hospitality.

**Interview with Man:**

The preservation of this island is probably the most critical element and we're trying to get it back to the way it was historically which was to predominately keep the traffic on the back in the periphery of the district and everything on the view and the front side of the district to be more pedestrian-related.

(Music)

**Male VO:**

Take an afternoon to stroll out on the pier and you may find a shrimp boat dropping off it's latest fresh catch for visitors to enjoy at the famous Rah Bar...

After enjoying some fresh Shrimp and oysters, you may want to meet "Bulldawg Buck" out on the Links.

**Bulldawg Buck:**

This is Jekyll Island golf club. We've got 318 golf courses and a nine. We've got Oleander, Pine Lakes, and Indian Mounds. Now I've spent most of my time on Oleander. Yall come back to see me.

**Male VO:**

Things change on the island when night falls. You may hear stories of ghosts, who reportedly walk the halls, of course ghosts are to be expected whenever you're down on the Georgia coast.

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**Interview with Lady in Blue Suit Again:**

There are certain places that I can walk about that give me something of a sense of presence and I don't know if these are necessarily individuals but they might be. We surmise that perhaps J.P. Morgan likes to come back to his favorite haunting, smoke that big black cigar on that porch from time to time.

**Male VO:**

But night at the Jekyll Island Club also means fine cuisine.

**Girl:**

This is delicious!

**Male VO continues:**

Enjoy a meal at the Courtyard at Crane? Or maybe a five course dinner in the Grand Dining Room. Robert Redford took a particular liking to this Room when Directing "The Legend of Bagger Vance"

**Quick Bite from interview with same lady in blue suit:**

It was easily done because the atmosphere here was so immediately of another time, a slower pace, a gentler time if you will.

**Male VO:**

So after the bike ride, the nature walk, shrimp at the Raw bar, golfing with bulldog buck, a romantic stroll at sunset, and dining like Millionaires of old, you may want to get a little shut eye. So go right ahead, this island is staying just the way it is now for you to enjoy on your next visit. Even if your name isn't Rockefeller.

(Music.)

**Gerald Bryant:**

We conclude our visit to Coastal Georgia here at Christ Church on Saint Simon's Island. Almost 150 years before the current church was built in the 1880's, John and Charles Wesley held services on the grounds here under these oak trees, its just another sight to add to your list of must see attractions when you visit coastal Georgia. Now here's a sneak preview of the next Georgia Traveler.

**Different Male VO:**

We enter the world of upper crust 19<sup>th</sup> Century Savannah and tour the beautiful home of Scottish cotton merchant Andrew Low.

David and Phil receive some much needed therapy from a 15 hundred pound Ox who lives in the Georgia Marshlands.

We also visit the First African Baptist Church in Savannah, a place of worship dating back to the late 1700s.

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And finally, two forts that both had roles in protecting Georgia's coast during a time of war.

**Gerald Bryant:**

I hope you join us for the next Georgia Traveler. Until we meet again, I'm Gerald Bryant wishing you pleasant journeys.

**Woman:**

Georgia Traveler is made possible in part by the Georgia Tourism Foundation.

**Man:**

Located 16 miles east of downtown Atlanta on 3200 acres of natural beauty, Stone Mountain Park features a wide variety of entertainment and recreation for every member of the family. The sky ride offers up close views of the memorial carving. Guests can take a five mile train ride or a paddle wheel river boat cruise. And the crossroads area offers the chance to interact with demonstration crafters. The park also features ride the duck tours and the laser show spectacular. More information is available at [stonemountainpark.com](http://stonemountainpark.com).

**Woman:**

And by...

**Woman:**

People are drawn to this state for its unbelievable beauty. We're working hard to keep it that way. We're Georgia Power, proud sponsor of the programming that also enriches our lives.

**Woman:**

And by...the Ray M. and Mary Elizabeth Lee Foundation. And by...the Supporters of Georgia Public Broadcasting. Thank you.

**Music**

Credits

**Man:**

This has been a production of Georgia Public Broadcasting.