

**GEORGIA TRAVELER 102- SAVANNAH
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, looking for a trip you'll like the most, maybe 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're called the Georgia Traveler.

Woman:

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.

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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 host Gerald Bryant...Behind me is the city of Savannah; we're visiting Georgia's northern coast this week and here's a preview of the stories you're about to see.

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

A couple of us 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.

And finally, two forts that both had roles in protecting Georgia's coast during wartime

All those stories are coming up, but first a sample of the scenery, a hint of the history you'll experience when you visit Georgia's Coast.

Music

Gerald Bryant VO:

Only 34 miles south- but a world away from the bustle of Savannah- lies the Melon Bluff Nature Preserve and Palmyra Plantation, home to all manner of creatures.

David Zelski VO:

There is a beast that walks among the Oaks in Coastal Georgia...He is mysterious, yet kind...inspiring and judicious, but most of all he is a friend to anyone who seeks his help. He is Northern Spy, a 15 year old Therapeutic Ox at the Melon Bluff Nature Preserve.

David Zelski:

I don't know what it is Doc, but I'm having these stressful dreams. I'm stuck in traffic on I-75, I-85 and I don't know what to do...Can you help me Doc? Yeah your right.

Laura Devendorf:

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We have a staff psychiatrist which is very important for people who are under a great deal of stress. His name is Northern Spy and he is our 2500 pound ox. I believe he's interviewed you.

David Zelski VO:

Spy advised me to relax and enjoy my stay at Melon Bluff, so I brought along my buddy Phil and we stayed a night at the Palmyra Plantation Bed and Breakfast, which sits right in the heart of these 8,000 plus acres of undeveloped coastline.

Laura Devendorf:

We've had it for 270 years and when you see so many generations and what they went through, through poverty, through starvation, through almost losing it. And yet they all hung on. There's such a legacy here, that you just...I think you're moved by that. You're inspired by that, it becomes your own private, personal mission to keep the land the way it's always been.

Meredith Devendorf:

In the last 10 years we have developed Melon Bluff Nature and Heritage Preserve which is a 2,000 acre track open to the public. And we do environmental education. And then we also have a bed and breakfast as well as kayaking excursions and informal education opportunities.

David Zelski VO:

300 of Georgia's 350 species of birds can be found at Melon Bluff. Try the Birding trail to catch a glimpse, or be a bit more adventurous and give the Kayaks a shot.

Meredith Devendorf:

But we see a lot of things moving into this area because it's not developed, that have been pushed out of other areas that have been developed. For instance in Florida...

Laura Devendorf:

When we have a big spring tide where the water comes over the top of the marsh then you really see wildlife in the marshes you've never seen any other way.

David Zelski VO:

I took a short break and tried my hand at Bocchi Ball...but soon came to the realization that I was horrible, so I joined one of the other guests back on the kayaks. And I got a close-up view of some endangered wood storks and was also lucky enough to come within 3 feet of the usually elusive green heron. Later on, guests can gather around the Adirondack chairs right along the bluff to enjoy some fine wine and hors' d'oeuvres. As soon as they brought out the food our friend Phil Proctor decided to become a little more involved with this story. When I headed to the kitchen to find out what was for dinner there he was to no surprise hanging out with the chefs.

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Phil Procter:

Great to have you in here...I knew you would find me in the kitchen. Guess what tonight shrimp Newburg, have no clue what I'm doing.

David Zelski VO:

After enjoying the shrimp Newburg and salad, Phil slipped up and made a couple of beef jokes.

Phil Procter:

I'm a man, I'm a meat eater. I got to have meat.

David Zelski VO:

Usually not out of taste, but someone was listening, and that someone was extremely disappointed.

Laura Devendorf:

He came from Sturbridge Village. He would have been sold for hamburger. And we have had him for the last 13 years.

Phil Procter:

I realize that you and I didn't get off on the right hoof. And that whole joke about beef in the kitchen I'm really sorry. I saw you and I just felt like that's a lot of burgers over there.

David Zelski VO:

Spy gave Phil some therapeutic words of advice, and I bid adieu to my new therapist with a Northern Spy Apple.

Laura Devendorf:

If you ever wanted to be part of some of the most beautiful landscape in Georgia you need to be here. It's an afternoon like this that just says it all for you.

Gerald Bryant:

If you're looking for accommodations in Savannah, there are a lot of great hotels. You might consider a bed and breakfast or one of the dozens of historic inns. The Planters Inn is located on Reynolds Square. It's on the side of what was once a parsonage, a parsonage occupied by John Wesley the founder of Methodism. Now it's time for us to get back on the road.

Gerald Bryant VO:

No trip to the coast would be complete without enjoying some military history. About 15 miles East towards Tybee Island we'll find Fort Pulaski and almost 30 miles South of Savannah, Fort McAllister awaits in Richmond Hill.

Ashlie Wilson VO:

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Georgia's coast is rich in military history, and as Georgia's first city, Savannah has certainly needed protection from invading forces over the decades. We'll start our exploration at Fort Pulaski on Cockspur Island. Although the most important events in the life of the fort center on the Civil War- that's not the reason the fort was built.

David Underwood:

A lot of people think that Ft. Pulaski was built because of the Civil War. It was not. It was built because of the War of 1812. After D.C. and the White House was burned by the British, the United States realized that something had to be done to protect the shoreline, the eastern shoreline of the United States. Ft. Pulaski was built to protect the city of Savannah. No one knew at the time that it actually would be used in the Civil War.

Scott W. Smith:

To say it's a Civil War fort is a little bit of a misnomer. That forty-eight months out of it's fifty or sixty year history but was conceived as part of a system of over thirty forts to protect important points on the American coast. Fort Pulaski was under construction from eighteen twenty-nine until eighteen sixty, and they were not anticipating the Civil War, they were anticipating European navies, French, British, later Prussian.

Ashlie Wilson VO:

Designed to protect Savannah from sea attacks, you might be surprised to hear the name of the engineer who devised the fort.

David Underwood:

One of the people involved with the construction was Robert E. Lee. He was brought here right out of West Point. He had training as an engineer, and he was brought in to design a dike system that goes all the way around this island, because you could not build a fort with it flooding twice a day from the tides.

June Devisfruto:

This was one of his first assignments. And he selected the site, and did a little bit of research and fieldwork. And it took about 18 years to build and over 20 million bricks. So, quite a bit of work.

Ashlie Wilson VO:

But the protection that those bricks offered was breached in April 1862 during bombardment from Union troops on nearby Tybee Island. The fort was surrendered after 30 hours to prevent further loss of life. The walls still stand today as they did at the surrender in 1862. A moment preserved in time for visitors to the site.

June Devisfruto:

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They like to walk around the outside of the fort and some of the cannon balls are still embedded in the wall. And then they generally like to head inside and see most of the casemates and the rooms.

David Underwood:

It might be called a stabilized ruin, but it is in great shape because the only thing that was destroyed was the one wall during that thirty hour battle.

Ashlie Wilson VO:

South of Savannah from Fort Pulaski is a fortification of a very different kind.

Scott W. Smith:

Fort McAllister is an earthwork built by the Confederacy during the War Between the States, when much of the coast of Georgia was subject to raids and attacks. And it was also there to protect the Ogeechee River inlet because some blockade runners might be able to use it.

Danny Brown:

For McAllister was built basically to protect the plantations on the Ogeechee River from the union invading forces. It was an earthen fort, only took a few months to build, it started off as just a two gun battery, and before the war was over, it was a 24 gun fortification capable of standing off seven major naval assaults.

Talley Kirkland:

The attacks would occur on a couple of occasions and fire all day long with tremendous damage to the sandworks, and almost overnight, under the cover of darkness, gangs of slaves impressed from the local plantations, would have the fort repaired.

Ashlie Wilson VO:

In fact, the fort was never breached by sea, it fell to a land assault on December 13, 1864. The fort was the only obstacle between Union troops under the command of Major General William T. Sherman and their goal of reaching saltwater on their "March to the Sea".

Danny Brown:

It was built as a water battery in that could be protected from a ship very easily, but a land assault, the fort never was designed for that. And you had over 1500 union troops assaulting on 230 men inside the fort. It basically was a recreation of the Alamo, too few defenders, too many attackers. It only took 15 minutes for the fort to fall.

Ashlie Wilson VO:

After the end of the Civil War, the site would remain virtually untouched for over 60 years.

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Danny Brown:

Henry Ford owned the property in the 1930s and he was quite a history nut and actually came in and rebuilt the fort using what photographs he could find in the archives. He was able to pretty much restore the fort to the 1863 appearance.

Talley Kirkland:

Ordinarily when a historic organization takes over a site, they will try to do the best to preserve, in the business, what is known as original fabric. And what that means is, you take the historic structure there, in the case of this earth fort, and preserve it as it is, stabilize it so it doesn't become any worse, but you don't alter it. In Henry Ford's time if you had a certain structure like this earth fort, why not restore it? And that's exactly what he did. So coming here, you see how formidable these earth forts could be.

Scott W. Smith:

The value of preserving remnants of the past is it gives us a physical touchstone with an earlier era, and it reminds us that we are in a chronology of human history. We compare those days and those lives to our own, then it puts us in perspective.

Gerald Bryant VO:

Among the many beautiful places to visit in the city are places of worship. One such church has a history almost as long as Savannah herself.

Music

Phil Proctor VO:

In 1773, before America declared Independence from the British, free black men and slaves had a place to worship in Savannah, Georgia. The First African Baptist Church still stands today and is considered by some to be the oldest black church in North America.

Reverend Thurmond Tillman:

This congregation has beginnings in 1773 when George Leile, who was a slave, was granted permission to preach up and down the Savannah River. On May 20 of 1775 he was ordained to gospel ministry. In August of 1777 he was able to obtain his freedom. And in December of 1777 he constituted the church right here in Savannah.

Phil Proctor VO:

Political decisions had to be made during the revolutionary war...decisions which brought about change to the church.

Reverend Thurmond Tillman:

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The British said that if they were to win the war that they would not do slavery in the new land. The colonist didn't have that claim to fame. So when the British lost the war for fear of being re-enslaved George Leile sailed with the British to Jamaica but before he left he had Baptized Andrew Bryant, his wife Hannah and others. They kept the church together. And on January 20, 1778 Andrew Bryant became the second pastor of 1st African Baptist church.

Phil Proctor VO:

Members of the congregation erected the present sanctuary in 1859. Slaves were not allowed to own property at the time, however they raised \$1,500 to purchase the land, which their masters held in trust for them. The structure, which became known as the "Brick Church", is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and contains a few unique features, like escape routes, which were necessary at the time of construction and eventually played a role in the Underground Railroad.

Reverend Thurmond Tillman:

During the American Revolutionary War there were tunnels dug that led to the Savannah River for evacuation of the city of Savannah in case they needed to do that. Remember those who built those tunnels would have passed that information on down to the next generation who was actually able when they built this building able to also have tunnels coming into the sub basement of this church. And there's a finished floor. Underneath the floor you would actually stand on and there are holes systematically placed on that basement floor.

Music

Phil Proctor VO:

Reverend Thurmond Tillman added that Dr. Cameron Madison Alexander, from Antioch Baptist in Atlanta, best sums up the role of the Nation's oldest black church.

Reverend Thurmond Tillman:

He said you're the oldest child and being the oldest child you have responsibility. Say whenever I was growing up and something went wrong at home and mom and daddy were not home, when they came back home if the lamp was broken it was the oldest child that got the whipping no matter what happened. And he said this to us. He said I just imagine that when you get to heaven and God's going to want the Black Church to answer for what the Black Church has done he's going to look for First African and want to know why was it that you did and did not do what you were supposed to have done. And that was a tremendous responsibility that when he said that it just resonated within our hearts and within our minds.

Music

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Gerald Bryant VO:

Less than a half mile east of First African Baptist is the heart of Savannah's City Market. Surely we can find some excellent cuisine there.

Music

Phil Proctor:

Chuck Ferguson, Phil Proctor good to meet you.

Chuck Ferguson:

Good to meet you.

Phil Proctor:

Alright down here at Belford's I understand that we're going to do shrimp, grits and collard greens.

Chuck Ferguson:

Yes sir.

Phil Proctor:

Ok now Chuck I've had shrimp, I've had grits which I don't like, and I've had collard greens. But you've figured out a way to bring them all together. Tell us about it.

Chuck Ferguson:

Well we sauté our shrimp bowl.

Phil Proctor:

You've got a little bit of butter or olive oil...

Chuck Ferguson:

Yes sir.

Phil Proctor:

We've got a little bit of bacon.

Chuck Ferguson:

And a pinch of bacon.

Phil Proctor:

A pinch of bacon.

Chuck Ferguson:

A little bit of chopped up bacon and then cook it.

Phil Proctor:

Alright so we're talking about eating good not healthy.

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Chuck Ferguson:

Yea, good not healthy.

Phil Proctor:

Ok, no it's looking good. And I feel pretty healthy right now. And then we get our grit cake.

Chuck Ferguson:

Grit cake...just drop them in the fryer and let them go.

Phil Proctor:

Now hold up...grit cakes.

Chuck Ferguson:

Uh huh.

Phil Proctor:

What's a grit cake?

Chuck Ferguson:

Well it's...the grits that we put in a hotel pan and put it in the cooler and let it cool down. Then we cut it out as a cake.

Phil Proctor:

Now Chuck when grand mamma was making grits those grits came out of that pot, they laid on that plate and I loaded them up with cheese and cut my eggs up and busted up that yoke. I've never heard of grit cakes.

Chuck Ferguson:

Grit cakes.

Phil Proctor:

Ok you're the chef. Alright I see we've got...

Chuck Ferguson:

Collard greens...

Phil Proctor:

Collard greens, ok.

Chuck Ferguson:

Right there.

Phil Proctor:

Chuck's a master. Ah presentation...

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Chuck Ferguson:

Presentation.

Phil Proctor:

I see, I see.

Chuck Ferguson:

The fried grits on top of the collard greens.

Phil Proctor:

Ok nice little triangular.

Chuck Ferguson:

Triangular, just design, you know.

Phil Proctor:

Oh yea you've got a little creativity there. And that's it?

Chuck Ferguson:

That's it.

Phil Proctor:

And it's known as what, is there an official name to this or do I just call it shrimp...

Chuck Ferguson:

Shrimp, greens and grits sir.

Phil Proctor:

Shrimp, greens and grits.

Chuck Ferguson:

That's the name of it on the recipe.

Phil Ferguson:

Ok, well there you have it, Chuck Ferguson and this beautiful plate of greens, grits and shrimp. And you know this is looking so good Chuck...I think I might want to just go over sit over here and eat a little bit of it.

Chuck Ferguson:

Ok, enjoy yourself.

Phil Proctor:

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Oh I definitely will. Well that's all from Phil and his fantastic food finds from Belford's restaurant here in Savannah. And I'm going to go sample this and I'll let you all know how it taste.

Music

Gerald Bryant VO:

After enjoying the Shrimp, greens and grits at Belfords, you may want to take a step back in time and visit the historic home of Scottish Cotton Merchant Andrew Low.

Music

Anna Smith:

It's really enjoyable to be able to essentially walk into another century. You escape from all of your current concerns and you can come out of yourself and be fascinated with another world.

David Zelski VO:

When you enter the ALH, you enter the world of upper crust 19th century Savannah...a city built by wealthy cotton merchants like Andrew Low, who came from Scotland in the late 1820s to make his fortune.

Hugh Stiles Golson:

Cotton was making this city rich and that's the history of Andrew Low. Andrew Low was definitely a cotton factor. He was riding the crest of this popularity, and this house is really the epitome of that period.

David Zelski VO:

The Andrew Low house was designed in the late 1840s by trend-setting New York architect John Norris, who chose classic Italian features over the currently popular Greek Revival style.

Hugh Stiles Golson:

When the house was first built it must have looked very unusual... it must have been extremely fashionable, it must have been the Dior of the time.

David Zelski VO:

Formal entertaining was a priority in 19th century Savannah. The house features a commanding entry hall which leads to connecting grand parlors. There is an elegant library with a writing desk and leather-bound volumes.... and a stately dining room with finely crafted furniture, china, crystal and silver pieces. Andrew Low and his wife Mary had frequent visitors to their home, including the British author William Makepeace Thackeray, who often visited Savannah on his lecture tours. Another visitor was General Robert E. Lee, who was godfather to the Low's daughter Jessie...and a lifelong friend of the family.

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Anna Smith:

In 1870, several months before he died but after the war, Robert E. Lee came and stayed here in this house for a month, and several receptions were held in the house in his honor.

David Zelski VO:

Andrew Low died in 1886. His spoiled, playboy son William Mackey Low inherited the Savannah mansion. William's biggest claim to fame would be his marriage to Juliet Gordon Low, the future founder of the Girl Scouts.

Hugh Stiles Golson:

Juliet Gordon Low was better known as Daisy. Daisy was her childhood name. She was an interesting person, a very determined woman and very artistic in many ways.

Anna Smith:

She was a blacksmith, she was a sculptress and she was deaf. And along the way the marriage fell apart and it was a very unhappy marriage.

David Zelski VO:

William died at age 45 and Juliet traveled to England to get over his death. There she met Lord Baden Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts.

Anna Smith:

She came back to Savannah and in fact called her old school mistress and said "Come over immediately. I have something for the girls of Savannah and for the world!" And the charter for the Girl Scouts was signed in the front parlor here in March 12, 1912.

Hugh Stiles Golson:

Their headquarters, their first headquarters is the carriage house of this building. Daisy spent the rest of her life having a wonderful time with the girl scouts.

David Zelski VO:

Juliet Gordon Low died in this room in 1927. She was the last member of the family to live in the Andrew Low house. In 1928 the National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Georgia purchased and restored the Andrew Low house to its original grandeur. For over 50 years it has been open to the public as a monument of an era which has vanished. Many of Savannah's great old mansions are gone, but lucky for us - the Andrew Low house... lives on.

Gerald Bryant:

We conclude our visit to Georgia's northern coast at Chippewa Square here in Savannah. Now, this is the location where Tom Hanks shot the famous park bench scene in the movie Forrest Gump, so of course I am tempted to say that our program is like a box of chocolates-you never know what you're going to get-

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except we know exactly what you're going to get on the next Georgia Traveler. Joni Mabe shows off her collection of Everything Elvis. Explore the mysteries of the Granite Capital of the World. Celebrate Oktoberfest in Georgia's alpine city of Helen. And discover some of Georgia's beautiful State Parks. We hope you join us for the next Georgia Traveler. Until we meet again, I'm Gerald Bryant wishing you pleasant journeys.

Woman:

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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.

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:

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