

GEORGIA TRAVELER 113 – Best of Georgia Traveler
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.

Woman:

And by...

Woman:

The Ray M. and Mary Elizabeth Lee Foundation, Inc.

Woman:

And by...

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Woman:

Supporters of Georgia Public Broadcasting.

Woman:

Thank you.

David Zelski:

Hello and welcome to this special, best of, edition of Georgia Traveler. Now picking our favorite stories from season one was tough, but we eventually narrowed it down to five, so sit back relax and enjoy a few highlights from Season One of Georgia Traveler.

We begin our journey on the Coast where Phil and I visit an Ox in the Marshes of Glynn who possesses a unique ability.

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

Laura Devendorf:

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:

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. Your 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:

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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:

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 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'oeuvre. As soon 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.

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:

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:

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:

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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:

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.

David Zelski:

Next, it's North to the Mountains for a ride on the Blue Ridge Railway.

MUSIC

Gerald Bryant:

Ever wish you had a time machine? Well, Georgia Traveler has one, climb aboard the Blue Ridge Scenic Railway.

Gerald Bryant:

Morning.

Man:

Good morning, sir. Welcome to the Blue Ridge Scenic Railway.

Gerald Bryant:

Need a sticker there, thank you appreciate it.

Man:

Your sticker. Welcome aboard.

Gerald Bryant:

All aboard! I've always wanted to say that.

Gerald Bryant:

The excursion from Blue Ridge to McCaysville, Georgia, is 26 miles roundtrip and takes about 3 and a half hours all told. There are two ways to ride the rails here- in an enclosed car or an open car. We got tickets for an open car so we can really see some of the scenery. Even if it is a little chilly.

Woman:

We're a little cold.

Gerald Bryant:

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In the first four miles, the train descends 200 feet in elevation. After that, the track runs almost flat for the remaining nine miles into McCaysville. The train offers a splendid view of the Toccoa River along the way.

Gerald Bryant:

Each car has a Car Host who points out interesting features and imparts information along the way. Our car host is Fergie.

Car Host:

You folks from the big city look at that, that's a herd of deer out there. We put a herd of deer out there that we got from Disney World just for folks from the big city.

Gerald Bryant:

How long you been a car host?

Fergie:

I've been a car host since we ran our first train April 1st of 1998.

Gerald Bryant:

And were you a train buff before you became a car host?

Fergie:

Not really. A good friend of mine was and he dragged me on board this thing and told me I was going to be a car host and I told him I didn't want to and of course, I've been here ever since and so has he.

Gerald Bryant:

How much information did you have to digest and remember to become a car host?

Fergie:

Quite a bit, quite a bit. I've learned a lot from the local people here, the history of the rail line itself as well as history of Fannin County, Georgia, which is where we are.

Gerald Bryant:

Even though you weren't necessarily a train buff, had you taken many train rides before?

Fergie:

No. You make me think. I think I rode one train when I was about twelve years old with my parents way back when.

Gerald Bryant:

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And I'm happy to say that parents bringing kids for their first train ride is still a tradition.

Gerald Bryant:

What's your name?

Kathy:

Kathy.

Gerald Bryant:

Kathy. Is this your first train ride?

Gerald Bryant:

What do you think of it so far?

Kathy:

I think it's fun.

Gerald Bryant:

Have you ever seen anything like this before?

Kathy:

No

Gerald Bryant:

Do you wish there were still some trains around for you to ride?

Kathy:

Yeah.

Gerald Bryant:

During the trip, you do get a feel of what train travel was like. The Conductor even comes by to give your ticket a special punch.

Conductor:

There you go, hope y'all have a great time.

Gerald Bryant:

A great time is to be had by all. Not only were we enjoying great scenery and interesting commentary, we also had a sing-a-long.

MUSIC

All the little long day.

I've been working on the railroad,

Just to pass the time away.

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Gerald Bryant:

When you arrive at your destination, you're in McCaysville, Georgia or is it Copper Hill, Tennessee? Georgia, Tennessee. Or is it possible that you're in both states at the same time? It may be a line you don't want to cross.

Gerald Bryant:

Actually, it's two towns, but really one community. It exists because of a copper mine that operated here for about 80 years. Today the town is full of charming shops and good eateries. A great place to pass the hour and a half before the train makes the 13 mile return trip to Blue Ridge.

Gerald Bryant:

Before long, it's time to re-board and ride the rails again.

David Zelski:

Every November down near the state line border in Calvary, our state celebrates the beloved Mule.

Half Donkey, half Horse, behold, the Mule. The mule is neither a boy nor girl. A mule is just sort of there?

Wayne Windham:

A mule is a unique animal because for one a mule cannot reproduce themselves. They have to be bread.

David Zelski:

Regardless, nearly 80 thousand mule enthusiasts annually flood the little town of Calvary, Georgia the first Saturday in November to celebrate these celibate creatures.

Charlie McNaughton:

Mule Day actually began 33 years ago. The Lions Club in Calvary, the membership had dwindled down to a very small number and so they wanted to find a way to increase the membership and also to have something for the community and also something to raise money. So they decided to honor the mule.

MUSIC

David Zelski:

Every year the Calvary Lions Club undertakes the enormous task of organizing this massive event which begins on Mule Day Eve with a pilau dinner.

Woman:

Welcome to South Georgia how about having some pilau with us.

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Glenda Shepherd:

This is called pilau, or chicken in rice in the wash pot. It's rice and chicken and broth and seasonings.

David Zelski:

That is some good pilau. At the crack of dawn before the pilau has time to digest, pancakes are served, sweetened with none other than Mule Day Sugar Cane Syrup.

Man:

Yea that looks good.

David Zelski:

A process generated by raw Mule Fuel. However through innovative 20th century technology, syrup making has changed but no one tell this mule that his constant walking in circles isn't necessary anymore, he or it may lose incentive.

Earl Williams:

Most all the farms around this area, the small farms, most of them had an area to make syrup. They made their own syrup. They also sold syrup. You might know the city of Cairo, a little town up here is known as the Syrup City. Well it was known for a time as Syrup Capitol of the World.

David Zelski:

Next to the Syrup mill is the Grist Mill, where Uncle Luke and his assistant always seem to have things under control.

Assistant:

You pour it into the hopper in measured amounts, not too fast...

Uncle Luke:

No

Assistant:

What you just pour it into the hopper?

Uncle Luke:

Well you've got a gage there to let the amount go in.

Assistant:

Oh, Ok.

David Zelski:

Vendors and performers are scattered throughout the grounds. You may find time to enjoy a little clogging show. Or maybe a tune from a few nearby Floridian

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tots. Charlie McNaughton and I had a chance to enjoy the Tallahassee Symphony Youth Orchestra.

MUSIC

David Zelski:

And what's a Mule day with out a mule show. Several of the World's most talented Mules compete in 18 different events, from the log pull to the skills competition these Mules really know how to strut their stuff.

Charlie McNaughton:

Very simple type activities, we're not cruel to the animals or anything. We let the mules do different things to win prizes and trophies.

David Zelski:

Some Mule enthusiasts not participating in the show may even get a chance to ride for themselves. Here you may discover the next Roy Rogers, smooth, sophisticated, debonair. Not far from the Mule show and pony rides, you'll find the sling shots. \$1 buck gives you ten slings at a challenging target. I hit I think 9 out of 10, no I actually got one. Take a few minutes and skip on over to the Mule Day Museum. This is fun for adults and history buffs, however kids can always enjoy the petting zoo. And what's a mule day without a Mule Day Parade. Here the streets of Calvary are cleared, and filled back up with, well, a Calvary.

Wayne Windham:

Mule day is an event that causes the community to rally around themselves.

David Zelski:

Here, the mules are judged from costumes to character, and awards are given to the tops in each field.

Wayne Windham:

Mule Day is just a good wholesome family festival.

Man:

Alright is that a deal?

David Zelski:

Mule day is the day every year in Calvary, Georgia. From pilau to prizes, a good time is guaranteed. So as long as horses and donkeys remain intimately involved, the mule will rule in South Georgia.

MC:

Yeewhaw, walk your animals please. Walk your animals.

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David Zelski:

Traveling back towards the middle of the state in Perry, Gerald finds some good times and good friends at the Georgia National Fair

MUSIC

Gerald Bryant:

Whether you spend one full day or even one week at the Georgia National Fair in Perry, Georgia, you still may not have enough time to see it all.

MUSIC

Gerald Bryant:

So who better than some veteran fair fanatics to help me explain at least a fraction of the festivities

Zeke the Hillbilly:

My name's Zeke.

Gerald Bryant:

Zeke?

Zeke the Hillbilly:

The Hillbilly.

Gerald Bryant:

Zeke the Hillbilly. This is a very interesting conveyance behind you. Tell me about the car back there.

Zeke the Hillbilly:

Well that's an old 1929 Model A town Sedan that's been converted into a hillbilly RV.

Gerald Bryant:

Can you tell me your name?

Patches the Dog:

Well my name is Patches and I'm with the Perry Fire Department.

Gerald Bryant:

And what are you doing at the fair?

Patches the Dog:

Oh I'm teaching the little ones about fire safety and having a good time, and eating a few corn dogs.

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Gerald Bryant:

Now wait a minute, you're a dog right?

Patches the Dog:

That's right.

Gerald Bryant:

And your favorite food is Corn Dogs?

Patches the Dog:

CORN DAWG Baby!

Gerald Bryant:

Isn't that kind of weird?

Patches the Dog:

Well you know, It's a fireman thing. It's good.

MUSIC

Gerald Bryant:

What's the best thing you've had to eat all day?

Group:

Oh the pork tenderloin sandwich.

Gerald Bryant:

So you'd recommend the Pork tenderloin...

Group:

Yes. Yes.

Gerald Bryant:

Has anybody had an elephant ear, yet?

Group:

No. No. We'll have to go to that. What's the next best thing? The funnel cake.
No the funnel cake, the funnel cake.

Gerald Bryant:

What's the difference between an elephant ear and a funnel cake?

Elephant Ear Enthusiast:

A funnel cake is made with a pancake batter, they're smaller and about so thick...

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Group:

Yea, we just had one of those.

Elephant Ear Enthusiast:

Ours is a flour based with sugar salt about this big around and so thick, crispy.

Gerald Bryant:

Here is the final test.

Group:

Here I'm going to let you tear off a piece. Come on. Come on let's try it.

Gerald Bryant:

Okay...

Elephant Ear Enthusiast:

You should have made it bigger for TV.

Group:

Yes you should have.

Gerald Bryant:

That's big enough.

Group:

Oh it's hot. It should be.

Gerald Bryant:

I think the one with the cinnamon is a really good elephant ear.

Woman:

Can you give him a hug.

Patches the Dog:

Ah man that's good.

MUSIC

Gerald Bryant:

Well tell me what the famous act of Ed and Geraldine does.

Ed:

Hi folks

Geraldine:

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Well what it is an interactive little entertainment show for everybody especially the boys and girls who want to join us playing with an instrument.

MUSIC

Gerald Bryant:

Look it's the elephant ear crowd.

MUSIC

Gerald Bryant:

After a full day of activities, night time offers just as much excitement. You can shoot some hoops. Finally. You can play this whiffle-ball laundry basket game, which I could never seem to figure out.

Man:

Oh man what're you doing?

Gerald Bryant:

Watch a world-class firework display high in the sky. Or look even higher in the sky and see a professional tight-roper whose words from above changed the way I live my life.

Tightrope Walker:

For always remember that life is not measured by the breaths that we take, but rather by the moments that leave us breathless.

Gerald Bryant:

Wow, I'm speechless at least until the next Georgia National Fair where I'm sure Patches the Fire safety dog, Zeke the Hillbilly and the crazy elephant ear gang will be there to guide me through.

Patches the Dog:

Ok, see you later...

Mother:

Ok.

Patches the Dog:

See you later, bye, bye. Alright we'll see you.

David Zelski:

Just Northeast of Atlanta, Phil travels back to Medieval Times in Lawrenceville.

Phil Proctor:

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Have you ever thought about traveling back in time, let's say to the eleventh century. Well that's exactly what you do when you visit Medieval Times. I went behind the scenes to find out why this is a great place to visit and I also understand they've got some really good food. However Medieval Times is so much more than a place to eat five nights a week this castle in Discover Mills becomes an epic.

King:

My Lords, my ladies, you have my leave to enter these gates but as you do please remember this is the eleventh century.

Announcer:

A betrayal is revealed, the wizard predicts doom, a princess professes love, and the crowd celebrates with their King.

Jon Speier:

It slowly developed over time from the 70's into 1983 when we built in Florida into 6 different knights from these 6 regions and that brought the guest participation to a new level, seeing who's going to fight the best and who's going to win in the tournament.

Phil Proctor:

Enter Medieval Times and you embark on a realm of chivalry, pageantry, knights and, David? What the heck is he doing here? No man has ever dared to steal my story, therefore just like the knights of 11th century Spain, I vowed to King Alphonso and Princess Esperanza to defeat this story stealing charlatan. So I trained with the Head knight known as J.D., as did my unfortunate adversary.

J.D.:

Less talking more wiping gentleman.

Phil Proctor:

Yes. Yes my Lord.

David Zelski:

Yes. I'm sorry

Phil Proctor:

Beginning our training as mere squires.

J.D.:

There you go. If he was four feet closer you might have got him there.

MUSIC

J.D.:

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Cut his waist, going to lose your fingers.

MUSIC

J.D.:

Squires run everywhere in our arena, they never walk. They run to fetch weapons, they run to fetch dung, they run to do everything. So have at it.

MUSIC

J.D.:

The Kings horse has left you a little bit of a present over there on the ground. And you're going to need to remove that from the arena. We can't have our guests and the nobles seeing that. Run, run, run. See this huge arena here.

David Zelski:

Uh, huh.

J.D.:

Yea you need to dig out the entire thing. The whole arena, yup.

David Zelski:

Is Phil still working?

J.D.:

So here's your rags, you need to wipe down these shields and then all the ones on that wall over there.

David Zelski:

So after this shield is clean we are knights.

J.D.:

No after this shield is clean you've finished your squire work. It's time to start preparing your horses for practice.

David Zelski:

Oh.

J.D.:

Although you are getting better, those shields look very nice.

David Zelski:

Thank you.

Phil Proctor:

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Thank you Lord. If given the opportunity I will take you to McDonalds and feed you Big Mac's.

J.D.:

You're going to want to take your reigns.

David Zelski:

Ok.

J.D.:

Your horses blanket.

Phil Proctor:

Get my blanket.

David Zelski:

Phil can't go anywhere without his blanket.

Phil Proctor:

I need my blanket.

J.D.:

This way gentlemen.

J.D.:

As far as squires go we look for people with an athletic background, people that played football, soccer, things like that. Physical fitness is the highest priority here. Besides that we look for tall people, long hair you know muscular build. You know anything that might resemble a medieval knight.

Phil Proctor:

So what you're saying, I've got about most of the qualities that you've described. I mean I. He will never become a knight. I will see to it. Ah, alright here...

J.D.:

Yup.

Phil Proctor:

Pull myself up.

J.D.:

Yup.

Phil Proctor:

Boy sorry about that.

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J.D.:

You're going to be riding your horse backwards today are you?

David Zelski:

Some horses prefer it this way.

J.D.:

It's much more difficult to joust that way.

Phil Proctor:

Usually squires will train for months before even being considered for the honor of knighthood, however we didn't have much time. The Lawrenceville castle is home to 22 Purebred Spanish Andalusian Horses. In fact, Medieval Times is the largest single owner of Andalusians in the United States. It is the responsibility of Felipe and Adrian to make sure every horse is properly prepared for the competition.

Felipe:

He'll see you're fresh. You need to work him a little bit more.

Phil Proctor:

And the horses are ready for battle, David and I prepared for the final battle as knight-wannabes in front of the King and the Princess.

MUSIC

Phil Proctor:

Away with you, never again shall you step foot in my kingdom.

David Zelski:

Sorry.

Phil Proctor:

I ask you, should we keep his head.

King:

My lords, my ladies, shall he live or shall he die.

Audience:

Kill him.

King:

Then you will die.

Princess:

But Father.

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Phil Proctor:

I then was honored in the presence of King Al and Princess E. for short, and learned more about their castle and more importantly its food.

Princess:

We always have our royal chef's prepare a wonderful chicken, two spare ribs an herb basted potato, soup, a pastry of the castle and as much bread as you would like.

Phil Proctor:

So it was off to the kitchen for me to learn just how Medieval Times prepares for over 11-hundred guests nearly every night.

Jonathan Rico:

We have three large Gemini ovens here that can cook 400 chickens in each oven. After they're cooked for an hour and 45 minutes they're trayed up here on these two tables that come together. They go directly into the holding cabinet. These warmers here are double sided so on the other side they get to take it from that side put it right out on the other side for the food servers that come in and give it to our guests.

King:

Your victory has been won with strength and with courage. And we would like to honor you with this victory celebration. Please my lord, partake of this great feast that we have prepared for you.

Phil Proctor:

Ok Alphonso I've never been known to turn down a meal especially with my favorite food, the barnyard bird, chicken. Another fantastic food find here at Medieval Times. Ah, King Alphonso that's pretty good.

David Zelski:

And that concludes our special best of edition of Georgia Traveler's first season. We do hope you join us for adventures in the future, until then, I'm David Zelski 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

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crafters. The park also features ride the duck tours and the laser show spectacular. More information is available at stonemountainpark dot 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:

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Music

Credits

Man:

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