

**GEORGIA TRAVELER 201  
CAPTION SCRIPT**

**Music**

**Phil:**

On this episode of Georgia Traveler, we're driving down U.S. 17 from Savannah to Darien in search of family fun...

**David:**

A place to eat, a place to sleep, and an outdoor activity...

**Keely:**

And don't forget, a local legend. We're gonna find out just where to go at this Georgia Visitor Information Center near Savannah.

**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, 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're called the Georgia Traveler.

**Music**

**Woman VO:**

Georgia Traveler is made possible in part by...

**Music**

**Man VO:**

Few places on earth match Georgia for natural beauty, and we plan to keep it that way. We're Georgia Power, a proud sponsor of public broadcasting. We're on, so you can be. Georgia Power, a Southern Company.

**Music**

**Woman VO:**

And by supporters of Georgia Public Broadcasting. Thank you.

**Music**

**David:**

Hi, I'm David.

**Dot:**

Hi, I'm Dot. Welcome to Georgia.

**David:**

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Thank-you very much. Well, Dot, we're traveling U.S. 17 from Savannah to Darien, and I'll tell you what, we're already pretty hungry. I heard Paula Deen has a place around here.

**Dot:**

You're correct. It's called the Lady and Sons. She's located on West Congress Street in Historic Downtown Savannah.

**David:**

Well, that sounds great. Thank-you.

**Dot:**

Bon appetite!

**Music**

**Phil:**

You know there are a lot of great things I like about Savannah: the Spanish moss hanging from the live oaks, it's rich in history, tour buses, River Street and the most important thing to me, great foods! On this segment of Phil's Fantastic Food Finds I'm here at Lady and Sons. We're gonna discuss the lady, hang out with the sons, and learn more about this "bags to riches" story.

**Music**

**Phil VO:**

I got a chance to catch up with Jamie and Bobby Deen on the third floor of their very popular restaurant.

**Phil:**

You told me about this great university that you attended, the Paula Deen University?

**Bobby:**

That's exactly right! PDU.

**Phil:**

PDU? Tell us...you got your master's too, right?

**Bobby:**

I did. It was...our mom, let's see, there are so many ways that you can describe our mom. She's just, she's just tenacious, and she's very tough and strong.

**Music**

**Phil:**

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So Jamie, tell me, what is it like running the operation here at Lady and Sons?  
The daily operation?

**Jamie:**

We've been doing it 18 years, and we started at home with no money, no experience, no plan. Bobby and I used to carry lunch around to offices and ask people to buy lunch out of our baskets, and then we started at Best Western Hotel on the south side, where we would cook breakfast, deliver lunches, wait tables, wash dishes, help Mom cook. So I've gone from a delivery guy to dishwasher to line cook to fry cook. We've done everything that we can do. And we rely on our team now. We either stay a business of three and serve 50 people a day, or we grow to a staff of 270, and we served half a million people last year.

**Music**

**Phil:**

And working for the Deens is more than just a job...it's family!

**Music**

**Bobby:**

Dora and our mom are like this. There are a few people in this restaurant that are here for life, and Dora's one of them.

**Phil:** Oh, oh, oh! Y'all know I was gonna find it! You know I was gonna find the kitchen! And guess, what, I'm with the head chef, Dora Charles. How are you today?

**Dora:**

Fine, how are you?

**Phil:**

I'm doing good! What are you doing? What you got going here?

**Dora:**

I'm making this homemade lasagna.

**Phil:**

Oh, man! Dora, I understand that you've been with Lady and Sons, Paula Deen for a long time. Tell me about that history.

**Dora:**

Yes, I've been with Paula 16 years. She would say 16, I would say 17, so we gonna go by what Paula says.

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**Phil:**

Okay, we'll go by that.

**Dora:**

But I've been cooking ever since I got with Paula. This is one of my favorite...I loved cooking when I was at home, so when I met with Paula, it was just right up my alley, and I love it!

**Music**

**Phil:**

Now I know that Jamie and Bobby and Paula are really about family, and I noticed that you actually have a family member working here as well.

**Dora:**

Yes.

**Phil:**

That must be fun working with your daughter.

**Dora:**

It's my daughter.

**Phil:**

It's your daughter?

**Dora:**

Yeah.

**Music**

**Phil:**

Your mom brought you guys up about family and about love and taking care of one another, and you guys have that same philosophy here. But you got some characters that are working here with you on staff. Talk to me about some of those folks.

**Jamie:**

You must be talking about Jelly Roll?

**Phil:**

Oh, I'm sorry!

**Music**

**Phil:**

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Jelly Roll? Jelly Roll? Who is Jelly Roll?

**Triangle ringing**

**Jelly Roll:**

Come and get it!

**Phil:** You know, I just left out of the kitchen, so I figured I'd come 'round 'cause they told me I needed to hang out with you, and really kinda figure out this whole thing with the hoecakes and the biscuits. But you know, Jelly Roll, what I realized, there are a lot of people that don't even realize what a hoecake is.

**Jelly Roll:**

Yeah, there's a lot of people don't, but it ain't nothing by cornbread!

**Phil:**

Cornbread?

**Jelly Roll:**

Yes, like regular cornbread just mixed together.

**Phil:**

Like Grandmama used to make for me?

**Jelly Roll:**

That's right! That's all it is.

**Phil:**

This thing right here is cornbread?

**Jelly Roll:**

That's all it is, cornbread!

**Phil:**

This thing?

**Jelly Roll:**

That thing there is cornbread! Yeah, it's pretty good!

**Phil:**

Girl, I have learned something! This is good!

**Jelly Roll:**

Isn't it good?

**Bobby:**

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The food is traditional Southern. It's fried chicken and collard greens, and biscuits and corn bread and sweet tea and peach cobbler and banana pudding and things like that.

**Phil:**

Hey, Jamie, speaking of food, you and I were talking earlier...

**Jamie:**

You ready?

**Phil:**

You said something about throwing down, like you really knew what you were doing!

**Jamie:**

I haven't eaten in 12 days!

**Phil:**

In 12 days?

**Jamie:**

Waiting on you to get here.

**Phil:**

So wait a minute, are you challenging me?

**Music**

**Phil:**

There was a little challenge put out about who could throw down on the chicken the best, and so, we about to get busy! But once again, I always gotta remind you, this has been another Fantastic Food Find from the Lady and Sons in Savannah. And now, we gotta do the do! All right!

**Music**

In America's most haunted city, who you gonna call? How 'bout, the Ghosts and Gravestones Tour!

**Music**

**David VO:**

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After your pleasant dining experience, you may want to step out for a little stroll in Savannah's historic district...But I must warn you...keep a watchful eye... because at night in Savannah, you are never alone...

**Music**

**David:**

There are haunted places all over America: cities like Boston, Charleston, and St. Augustine. But for Savannah to be dubbed the most haunted city in America, I'll believe it when I see it!

**Music**

**David VO:**

In Savannah, Georgia, the undead have a tendency to unveil their presence.

**Man:**

I said, come with me! Get up; let's go!

**David VO:**

But don't worry, there are a few paranormal experts around town whose job is to keep you safe...

**Man:**

I am a living human spirit.

**David VO:**

Or so they'd lead you to believe....

**Charles Brazil:**

Well, Ghosts and Gravestones is what we call a fright seeing adventure. It's a rolling theatrical production that takes place on these trolleys on the doomed, featuring live actors in costume, telling stories of the darker side of Savannah, but it also is a tour of the historic district in Savannah at night.

**Nathaniel Washington:**

In the late 1800s they ordered the gravediggers of Savannah to move as many bodies as they could away from the center of the city because there was rumors that the vapors from the dead weren't so good for those still living. Well, we moved thousands of bodies to the south of Savannah, and we never marked most of them because we didn't want to give grave robbers easy access. For how could we have known that 120 years later, we'd be building hundreds and hundreds of homes in the south of Savannah. Which is why every single day, despite our best intentions, the city lives up to its nickname of the city that is built on its dead.

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### **Nathaniel Washington:**

We're coming up on nearly 300 years of existence and we've had three major fires and war and pestilence and famine. Many people have lost their lives here in Savannah, and it seems that a lot of them have stayed around...

### **Nathaniel Washington:**

The local legend is that if you visit Savannah once in your life, you will always visit again, and if you die while you're visiting Savannah, you will never leave.

### **Music**

### **Charles Brazil:**

It's actually scientific. A preeminent university came down here with all the Geiger counters and gadgets and whatnot, and actually took all the measurements, and measured the highest level of paranormal activity ever recorded in a city, and that's how we got our claim to fame as America's most haunted city.

### **Nathaniel Washington:**

Well, certainly it seems nice and quiet today in Colonial Park Cemetery, but it's not always been so still and silent. You see during the Civil War when Sherman and his men were here, while Sherman was sequestered away in a beautiful mansion, his men were forced to sleep on the ground in Colonial Park. And it was a brutally cold winter. Now as we were into the graveyard, you might see these large brick buildings everywhere, with a half-moon shape cut into the front. Now these are underground crypts, and that half-moon is a sign. If you were to dig down four feet further in front of that crypt there, you would find a door. Going through that door you would find over six bodies stacked on shelves; literally a family plot. Now just a few days after Sherman's men arrived, they could not take the cold any longer, so they quickly dug down in front of every crypt they could find, smashed open the doors, ransacked them, and threw the bodies out onto the snow. And so that night, Sherman's men slept where the dead had slept the night before.

### **Music**

### **David VO:**

So when riding the dark trolley, beware of the undead, for you too may be a yet another witness to why Savannah, Georgia is America's most haunted city...

### **Man:**

Visit only during the day, or you will all pay the price.

### **Music**

### **Phil:**

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You know, you can't travel the Coastal Highway without visiting the beach. And there's no better place for an outdoor activity. Let's check in with Keely.

### **Music**

### **Keely VO:**

Tybee Island. Known as Savannah's beach, it's less than 30 miles from U.S. 17. I thought I'd take advantage of this great public beach along our route and try something new. I met up with Tim Malins, owner of the local High Tide Surf Shop to learn how to paddle board.

### **Tim Malins:**

Standup paddle boarding, it's an ancient Hawaiian sport, and it has a wide variety of uses. You can use it just to get around, and it seems to be a lot more fun than a canoe or a kayak, and being up high you can see everything. So, that's why it's really taken off; you can see it in a lot of areas, but it's really well-suited to the Georgia coast.

### **Tim:**

All right, the easiest way to start off...just hop on on your knees; real simple.

### **Keely:**

Okay.

### **Tim:**

You want to get...your center of weight wants to be right in the middle, right where the signature is, you can see right there's these ramps right here. So anyway, you got your knees right there, and the board's a little bit more stable when you're moving, so you can paddles, you can knee paddle like this to get the board moving.

### **Keely:**

Okay.

### **Tim:**

Once the board's moving, go up to your feet, and keep a nice, wide stance. Once you're there, you can pick the paddle up. And then you want to paddle; see this paddle is bent forward, so you want to use this flat side. It's important to use this T on the end, so you can really dig the paddle in and get moving. Now you want to switch sides, you start going, drifting it, you know, if you paddle on the right, you start drifting on the left, you can switch sides, and start paddling on this side. So long straight strokes will get you going straight. When you want to turn, you want to sweep more with the paddle. It's good to keep your knees bent with a low center of gravity. And that's it. If you fall, fall away from the board, try not to fall on the board...

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**Keely:**  
Okay.

**Hawaiian Music**

**Keely squeals.**

**Tim:**  
She's doing great for her first time.

**Music**

**Tim:**  
You have a lot of leverage with the paddle, so you can move really quickly. And standing up it's a lot of fun.

**Tim:**  
Tybee's a lot of fun. There's different things you can do. You can do surfing. When it's windy, you go kite surfing.

**Keely VO:**  
Kite surfing? This I've got to see.

**Surf music**

**Keely VO:**  
Wow. That looks like fun, but a challenge for a different day. The High Tide Surf Shop on Tybee Island offers lessons and gear for both sports. For now, it looks like paddle boarding might be more my speed.

**Music**

**Keely:**  
Well, thanks, Tim. That was awesome.

**Tim:**  
Thanks, it was fun. Thanks for coming out.

**Keely:**  
Do I have a future in this sport?

**Tim:**  
I think so; I think you need to keep at it and I think you'll do really well.

**Keely:**

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Great. Thanks a lot. I'll help you carry this stuff out.

**Tim:**

Great.

**Music**

**Keely:**

Okay.

**Keely VO:**

It's time to leave Savannah's beach and meet Phil for another island adventure.

**Music**

**Keely VO:**

About halfway between Tybee Island and Brunswick lies Sapelo Island. Every getaway here begins the same way, with a ferry ride.

**Music**

**Phil:**

All right you've been telling me about Sapelo Island for a while and you got me up very early this morning. What's the deal?

**Keely:**

Well Sapelo Island's just got to be, it's just a jewel in the crown of Georgia. It's really one of the most amazing islands on the Georgia coast. There's no way to get to it except by on this ferry, which runs three or four times a day. You have to be invited to the island to be on it. So you need to make arraignments either with the State of Georgia Tours, or with someone who lives in Hog Hammock, or with your group to come to the island. It's invitation only.

**Music**

**Keely VO:**

The name Sapelo is of Indian origin and was called "Zapala" by Spanish missionaries in the 1500s. This is my kind of place, so rich in natural and cultural history. Visitors to Sapelo Island can see virtually every facet of a barrier island's natural community, from the forested uplands, to the vast salt marsh, and the dunes complex. But my favorite place has to be the beach!

**Keely:**

This is Nanny Goat Beach.

**Phil:**

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Nanny Goat Beach, now.

**Keely:**

How pristine. Huh? It's a great um sea shell beach if that's what you're into.

**Phil:**

Wow this is pretty. Great way to start your morning.

**Keely:**

Look at that no buildings, nothing.

**Keely:**

So the first person to find a Knobbed Whelk, the state seashell, I'll give them five bucks.

**Phil:**

That's not it?

**Keely:**

That's an oyster...

**Phil:**

Okay.

**Keely:**

You know what they look like, right?

**Phil:**

Yeah, when they go into me, I'm sure.

**Music**

**Keely:**

Some kind of whelk...this is beautiful. You don't find this on a really populated beach in tact like this. Somebody else would have found it first.

**Phil:**

Now this is my idea about what the beach is about.

**Keely:**

What do you want to see next?

**Phil:**

Let's go to the lighthouse.

**Keely:**

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Lighthouse? All right, let's go there.

**Phil:**

All right, I'm taking my shell.

**Phil:**

So Keely, what can you tell me about this lighthouse right here?

**Keely:**

Well it's beautiful. It's the Sapelo Island Lighthouse. It was built in the 1800's or so and it was refinished about 10 years ago. And it was painted the original red and white. It's gorgeous now.

**Music**

**Keely VO:**

Not far from the lighthouse is the Reynolds Mansion, a wonderful place for groups to stay. Phil and I just need about a dozen more friends for us to book this place.

**Buddy Sullivan:**

A very historic home, it goes back to the early 1800s, the original house, a plantation house, which evolved in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century into the present residence, having been rebuilt by the private owners of Sapelo at the time, Howard Coffin and then later R.J. Reynolds, who was the last private owner of Sapelo.

**Keely VO:**

Another site of historical significance on the island is the Tabby Ruins, located on what is known as the Chocolate Plantation. The land that they occupy was once a prosperous cotton plantation, started by French Loyalists in the late 1700s. The structure was made from a mix of slurry and water, homemade lime, local sand, and oyster shells. And the remains afford the visitor an opportunity to step back in time and explore Sapelo's rich past.

**Music**

**Keely VO:**

Another place to stay is in the community of Hog Hammock, the last intact Geechee community on the Georgia coast. Their roots grow deep here, all the way back to the cotton fields their ancestors worked as slaves, 200 years ago.

**Fred Hay:**

Besides the natural beauty and the beaches and this beautiful house, one of the most unique features of the island, one of the things that makes what it is, is the legacy and the, and the people currently in the community. It's definitely a huge part of what the island is.

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**Phil:**

Hey Keely you know Sapelo Island was everything you said it was. The beach was incredible. Man how did you know about all this?

**Keely:**

It is just a great place. You've got to explore Georgia.

**Phil:**

Well I think we'll probably have to take another trip soon.

**Music**

**Keely:**

So, Dot, I know along the Georgia coast there's lots of family fun activities, but could you suggest one that's maybe particularly wholesome?

**Dot:**

Well, Keely, I have just the event for you, just off of Highway 17 in Darien, they have their annual Blessing of the Fleet Festival. It's the kickoff to the shrimping season, so there are lots of vendors, lots of food, lots of family fun.

**Keely:**

Great, and if there's lots of food, you know we'll find Phil there.

**Music**

**Phil VO:**

Darien, Georgia sits halfway down the Georgia coast on the Darien River. This close to the ocean, you can't help but crave seafood and Darien's long and rich history includes generations of shrimpers. Each year, Darien's fleet of shrimpers bring their boats to the Darien River Bridge seeking favorable conditions for a bountiful harvest. The event is called The Blessing of the Fleet.

**Women:**

Hello Georgia Traveler, welcome to Darien.

**Wally Orrel:**

It is a three day extravaganza that you will just love. It starts on a Friday and ends on a Sunday, and it culminates on Sunday after so make fun that takes place. We start with lots of food, lots of vendors, lots of things happening. 5k runs, parades. So, it's just become a major festival.

**Phil VO:**

From the young to the, ahem, more mature, the streets of downtown Darien are filled with friends, family and visitors enjoying the hospitality of the good folks of

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McIntosh County. Speaking of hospitality, I was invited.... Okay I invited myself... to participate in a shrimp eating contest. The competition was fierce. I'd never seen kids have that much fun devouring shrimp. I never had a chance. And the winner is....

**Woman:**

Davon Johnson is the winner of the age group five to nine. All right!

**Applause**

**Phil VO:**

The kids weren't the only ones getting their shrimp on. It was up to me and three other judges to decide who had the best grub in a friendly little cooking competition amongst some of the shrimp boat captains. Now that I had eaten so well, it was time to go walk the streets and check out what else the festival had to offer.

**Music**

**Phil VO:**

After all walking, I'm getting hungry again. Did someone say food...Lots and lots of food?

**Man:**

We got steak, polish sausage, chicken, got the rice, Greek salad, Creole on the other side. We have more chicken. You can all get it all on platters and also pitas.

**Phil VO:**

After a long day of food and fun in the sun, how about settling back and relaxing to the sounds of some live music?

**Music:**

My next door neighbor, Joe, was out in his yard. He walked out by the mailbox and got hit by a car.

**Phil VO:**

Or just watch the nighttime sky come alive with an incredible fireworks display.

**Fireworks exploding**

**Phil VO:**

The festival wraps up on Sunday with the Blessing of the Fleet.

**Wally Orrel**

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Thirty-nine years ago we began this annual observance and the boats pass in front of the docks and the priests bless the boats, and a reef is thrown out at the end of it to mark the individuals that have perished during the season, or the prior season and to pay tribute to them. It's a very spiritual, moving experience.

**Phil VO:**

Shrimp boat captain Darwin Gale and his family have been part of the event from the beginning.

**Darwin Gale:**

Well, I've been in it since I was a youngun. Participating in it. My father participated in it, my uncles and all. It's an annual event that's grown bigger every year.

**Phil VO:**

Gale is a third generation fisherman. For the Gales, fishing has always been a family affair.

**Darwin Gale:**

My father and my uncles, they got into it in the early '50s, which was when I was born. So I've been on a boat ever since I could get on a boat. My father raised my family on it, and I've raised a family on it, and now my sons are starting to raise their kids on it.

**Phil VO:**

The Blessing of the Fleet is a terrific family event loaded with entertainment, fun and food. It's just one of the reasons to visit this coastal community.

**Phil:**

When visiting Darien, or any of the areas along the Georgia coast, you can stay in a hotel, or a bed and breakfast such as the one behind me. Or for a real unique experience, how 'bout your own private island?

**Phil VO:**

Nestled between the Darien River and Mayhall Creek, sits Eagle Island; a private resort accessible only by boat. Andy Hill is the owner and operator of this exclusive getaway.

**Andy Hill:**

Eagle Island is a lodge located 10 minutes off the coast of Darien and about 30 minutes North of St. Simon's, and we provide round trip boat transportation for our guests out to the lodge. We orientate you to the island and then we depart and leave you with your private island for the weekend or the week.

**Phil VO:**

The island derives its name from two very special inhabitants.

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**Andy Hill**

We have a nesting pair of bald eagles on the island, and we thought that was appropriate with the eagle nest located next to the lodge, and always good for photography and for people to enjoy.

**Phil VO:**

And enjoy I did. Whether it's Eagle Island or the Blessing of the Fleet, Darien is a great place to visit.

**Music**

**Phil:**

Well, that concludes this episode of Georgia Traveler, so we'd like to thank Dot and all our friends here at the Visitor Information Center.

**Keely:**

And we hope you'll join us for the next episode of Georgia Traveler. Until then, I'm Keely Muse...

**Phil:**

I'm Phil Proctor...

**David:**

And I'm David Zelski, wishing you pleasant journeys...

**Music**

**Woman VO:**

Georgia Traveler is made possible in part by...

**Music**

**Man VO:**

Few places on earth match Georgia for natural beauty, and we plan to keep it that way. We're Georgia Power, a proud sponsor of public broadcasting. We're on, so you can be. Georgia Power, a Southern Company.

**Woman VO:**

And by supporters of Georgia Public Broadcasting. Thank you.

**Music**

**Man VO:**

Georgia Traveler is produced in partnership with the Georgia Department of Economic Development and the Georgia Tourism Foundation.

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**Man VO:**

This has been a production of Georgia Public Broadcasting.