

**GEORGIA TRAVELER 202  
CAPTION SCRIPT**

**Music**

**Keely VO:**

On this episode of Georgia Traveler, we're roaming the Atlanta Highway, U.S. 78 from Atlanta to Washington in search of family fun...a place to eat, a place to sleep, an outdoor activity, and a local legend. That's next on Georgia Traveler.

**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**

**Keely:**

Welcome to Georgia Traveler, I'm Keely Muse.

**David:**

And I'm David Zelski. We're here at the GPB Studios in Midtown Atlanta ready to begin our adventure down the Atlanta Highway.

**Keely:**

That's right. Our first stop is Arabia Mountain, about 20 miles east in DeKalb County. Not only is it a great place to explore the outdoors; it's a unique ecosystem that visitors can explore.

**Music**

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### **Keely VO:**

The Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve is a great place to get out of the city and enjoy all that nature has to offer. The area was once a location for a stone quarry in the '30s and '40s, until the mountain was turned into a DeKalb County park. They now oversee the conservation of the land.

### **Keely:**

So we're here at Davidson-Arabia Mountain, and we're about to hike up to Bradley Point, the highest point on this park. It's about 950 feet above sea level. We're gonna take this trail from the south parking lot; it's about point-6 miles to the top.

### **Music**

### **Keely VO:**

When you begin on the trail to the peak, you can't help but notice the similarities that Arabia shares with Stone Mountain, its big sister to the north. Both are known as monodnocks, which in layman's terms means a large rock that erupts from the ground in an area that is relatively flat. But there is a huge difference between them and it has nothing to do with their size. While Stone Mountain is composed of granite, Arabia is made of something known as gneiss. And Arabia is a little older than Stone Mountain. About a hundred million years older.

### **Keely:**

These little granite pillars are placed here to help you find your way to the top of the mountain, and maybe more importantly to help you find your way back.

### **Music**

### **Keely VO:**

Another amazing thing about Arabia is the amount of plant life that can be found on its hard surface. Many different species have been able to take root here. One in particular has been around longer than all the others.

### **Keely:**

This is one of the things you really need to be careful of when you're hiking, and it's this little, unassuming lichen. This lichen takes over 150 years to grow just two square inches. So this little patch right here took almost a hundred years to grow, so you don't want to step on that.

### **Music**

### **Keely VO:**

More substantial species can be found on Arabia, especially in solution pits—bowl-shaped craters carved into the surface of the rock by erosion.

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**Keely:**

All along the top of this mountain are these little vernal pools where water collects after a rainstorm, and this allows vegetation to take root here. And on this vernal pool we have diomorphas, these little red, dry sticks sticking out. But in the wet season, in March and April, these blossom into these fleshy red plants with little, white flowers. But right now they're in the seed mode. It's really important not to touch these or step on these.

**Music**

**Keely:**

Well, this is it, we've reached the top, Bradley Point, the highest part of Arabia Mountain. It affords a 360 degree view. It's beautiful. You can see for miles in all directions.

**Music**

**Keely:**

Even though the mountain here at Arabia is the main attraction, there's plenty of other outdoor activities you can enjoy.

**Music**

**David:**

Another way to enjoy Arabia Mountain is to use the path system, which runs all around the park.

**Music**

**David VO:**

This multi-use trail was created by the Path Foundation, and runs from downtown Lithonia on the north end all the way through Arabia to Panola Mountain, located on the south end. It is a moderate ride for most cyclists, and the beauty of the surrounding area is well worth the effort. It's easy to forget that less than 20 miles away is the thriving metropolis of Atlanta.

**Music**

**David:**

And all along the path you'll find signs which explain some of the things you might see. Like this one here—cavity nesters that live in holes, like northern flickers or eastern bluebirds.

**Music**

**David VO:**

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An interesting spot along the trail are the remains of the old quarry offices, which have slowly given way to the elements over the years.

### **Music**

#### **David VO:**

The path also serves as a trailhead to a walking trail leading to other parts of the preserve, such as Arabia Lake, a reservoir that is a hidden treasure for those who make the trip.

### **Music**

#### **David VO:**

Now, while I practice my wheelies out here on the path, Keely is making her way to the head manodnock here in Georgia, Stone Mountain.

### **Music**

#### **Keely:**

Stone Mountain is known for hosting a variety of festivals. This week is Spring Fun Break, and since my daughter was out of school this week, I thought I'd bring her with me. Are you ready to go inside? Okay.

#### **Keely VO:**

Stone Mountain Park is famous for being the home of the world's largest exposed granite stone. But over the years, it has also become well-known for the festivals that are held at the park year round. We're visiting the park during Spring Fun Break, an even held every year to coincide with most Georgia schools' spring break.

### **Music**

#### **Keely VO:**

The day starts with a southern-style breakfast at Miss Katie's Sideboard Restaurant.

### **Music**

#### **Keely VO:**

During the Spring Fun Break Festival, the restaurant plays host to some favorite children's television characters.

### **Music**

#### **Keely VO:**

After breakfast, visitors can wander the Crossroads area.

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**Music**

**Keely VO:**

Modeled after an 1870s southern town, it's full of shops, offering handmade items created right before your eyes.

**Music**

**Keely VO:**

Interactive demonstrations are offered daily.

**Music**

**Keely VO:**

The Spring Fun Break Festival also offers kids the chance to get a little face work done.

**Music**

**Keely VO:**

Have a couture hat made especially for them.

**Music**

**Keely VO:**

Or create their own wearable art.

**Music**

**Keely VO:**

And there's nothing like a good, old-fashioned storyteller to help kids wind down after an exciting day.

**Music**

**Keely VO:**

Another great event at Stone Mountain Park is the Yellow Daisy Festival, which has been taking place on the weekend after Labor Day for over 39 years. This arts and crafts festival is recognized across the country as one of the best. I took my camera along with me to check it out.

**Music**

**Leslie Breland:**

## **GEORGIA TRAVELER 202 CAPTION SCRIPT**

Well, this festival in fact got its name because of the yellow daisy flower that grows around the mountain. It makes it very unique, and it's a very unique flower. We have wonderful vendors here. Everything from fine art to furniture making, children's activities, garden art. There's so much available for people to see and do and buy and eat and enjoy that it makes it a really wonderful experience that multi-generations look forward to coming. We even have a men's den, where the men can recline on great recliners and watch some football and have a good time waiting for their significant others to come with all the packages.

### **Music**

#### **Keely VO:**

Because of the festival's popularity, close to a thousand vendors apply for a spot to show off their goods each year, but only 500 are accepted. To become one of the artisans chosen is not an easy thing to do.

#### **Leslie Breland:**

It is a juried festival, so that we know that the vendors have been screened. It is their own project; their own products. They have got to send pictures of them working in their workshops so that we know that they are the actual ones making the products. So you know you get a quality product here. People come from far and wide. It's great when we go through the parking lot looking at the license plates from the surrounding six, eight, nine states. People plan to come to the Yellow Daisy Festival at Stone Mountain Park, and over those four days we get a little more than 200,000 people coming through here.

### **Music**

#### **Keely VO:**

Both the Yellow Daisy Festival and the Spring Fun Break Festival are great ways to spend a day, but they're not the only events that you can enjoy at Stone Mountain Park.

#### **Katty Seuberling:**

In the fall they can enjoy our Pumpkin Festival, which is decorated very fall-like, pumpkins throughout. And we have activities the family can enjoy together. And then at Christmastime you can come out to Stone Mountain Christmas. We deck crossroads out in the park with lights. We have Christmas entertainment; Christmas shows. It's really just something the family can get out of their car and really experience Christmas together. We have our exciting attractions, but really we provide family fun with these festivals year round. So anytime you can come out, enjoy the attractions, but you also get bonuses with the festivals here at the park.

#### **Keely:**

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Well, Tuesday and I have had a great time at Spring Fun Break; we'll be sure to come back and check out some of the other festivals. And for some reason all this excitement has gotten Phil really hungry. I hope there's a place down the road where he can grab a bite.

### **Music**

#### **Phil VO:**

We're here in Athens, home of the University of Georgia. The population of Athens swells when school's in session, with over 30,000 students all focusing on football, food, and school, in that order.

#### **Phil:**

You know, I'm always looking for great food, and I'm finding some great food here in Athens at Loco's. Now they got wonderful wings, they got these big, mammoth burgers...y'all come on and go with me. Let's check it out.

### **Music**

#### **Phil VO:**

Since the late '80s, Loco's Grill and Pub has stood on its original ingredients of great food, fun, and family.

#### **Jamey Loftin:**

Well, Hughes and I were fraternity brothers at the University of Georgia back in the mid '80s.

#### **Hughes Lowrance:**

And we both had a passion for wanting to open a restaurant.

#### **Jamey Loftin:**

Then we got together and decided that we could make sandwiches better than anybody else in town.

#### **Hughes Lowrance:**

We founded a general store up on Carr's Hill. Bridger Loftin, my brother, and Ben Rainey, our friend, came and joined us right when we opened up, within the first year.

#### **Ben Rainey:**

Jamey, we met at a pizza joint, and I followed him over to Loco's 'cause I enjoyed working with him.

#### **Bridger Loftin:**

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Got out of high school, and my brother was running the store with Hughes down here, and he called me and he said he needed some help running this store, so I packed up my bags and moved down here.

**Hughes Lowrance:**

And most of our business out of that location was delivery, you know, it was just bare bones. No advertising; very little seating space. Very, very difficult.

**Jamey Loftin:**

You remember what we used for tables? We'd go to the power company and they'd have these huge spools that they would...after they would run out of wire. And we'd just lay the spool over on its side, and that was the tables. We built a barbecue pit out back with cinder blocks, and we found that big metal hood at the junkyard, and stick that on top to cook the barbecue with, back when we did that. A couple years later we had scraped up enough money to move over onto the University of Georgia campus.

**Hughes Lowrance:**

We started franchising in about '95, and we're at about 25 units right now.

**Phil VO:**

Now in Athens, bulldogs rule, but for Loco's, they cherish another four-legged friend, which has been their trademark from the very beginning.

**Jamey Loftin:**

The moose came from this guy right here. Hughes brought it down to college with him in '84, down at Georgia. When we moved into our first location, we were barely able to rub two nickels together, so any décor that we could round up for free we did, so he donated that and the moose went up on the wall. A few months later, we decided we needed a logo, so we looked around and we said, well, the moose, that looks like that needs to be the logo, so there it went.

**Phil:**

You know, when Jamie and Hughes first started the Loco's Grill and Pub, there were a lot of areas that they had to learn. Now one of them had to be serving tables. Well I'm gonna try my hand at it today. Good afternoon sir, how are you?

**Customer:**

Good.

**Phil:**

May I take your order please?

**Customer:**

Yes, can I please get the chicken Caesar?

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**Phil:**

Chicken Caesar? Big brother, chicken Caesar? Look at the menu; find something a big brother want to eat.

**Customer:**

Well let me get the biggest thing you've got.

**Phil:**

Okay, what would you like?

**Customer:**

The biggest thing you've got.

**Phil:**

That's what I'm saying, what do you want?

**Customer:**

The biggest thing you've got.

**Jamey:**

Hey Phil, you need me to handle this for you, man?

**Phil:**

Jamey, he wants, he keeps saying the biggest thing we've got, and I'm like what do you want?

**Jamey:**

That's a sandwich on the menu. It's called the Biggest Thing We've Got. It's been on there since 1988.

**Phil:**

You never told me about that sandwich.

**Jamey:**

You were supposed to memorize the menu before you came.

**Phil:**

You know what, I'm just going to talk to the customers.

**Phil:**

Lisa, you say you've been coming here a long time. What keeps bringing you back?

**Lisa:**

That would be the great food and the great atmosphere.

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**Customer 1:**

Good service; locally owned.

**Customer 2:**

It's just a fun place to come with friends.

**Lisa:**

I've been coming here to Loco's since they were over next to Goody's, and also when the first opened up over on Baxter Street.

**Hughes Lowrance:**

Our customers can come and get the same experience, and we're appealing to all walks of life.

**Jamey Loftin:**

What people get so excited about, I think, is our pub feel, our public house—a community living room, where people just kind of come hang out. They can eat, they can drink, they can watch the game, they can talk to their friends.

**Ben Rainey:**

I would say, the biggest part of this success is that we all have been great friends.

**Bridger Loftin:**

I can't imagine working with a better group of people, to be quite honest with you. I mean, it's fun everyday. Even after 20 years, walking in, it's still fun every day.

**Phil:**

I've had a great time today. And there's something I do better than just about anybody I know, and that is eat. From Athens, at Loco's hanging, out with my new friends, another Fantastic Food Find. I'm Phil and I'm about to enjoy.

**Phil VO:**

While me and the boys throw down on the food, David's in search of gold.

**Music**

**David VO:**

From streets full of antebellum homes to tales of lost gold, tourists and treasure hunters alike should make Washington, Georgia a must-see when traveling U.S. 78.

**Ashley Barnett:**

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The lost gold and the homes are definitely what Washington and Wilkes County is known for. The antebellum homes here are just so graceful and so elegant. And if we could describe this town anyway, it would definitely be graceful.

### **Robert “Skeet” Willingham:**

It's one of the few towns in Georgia that has both a Revolutionary War history as well as a Civil War history. Washington was chartered on January 23, 1780, and became really what we think is the first town in America chartered in the name of General George Washington.

### **Confederate Soldier:**

Fire in the hole!

### **Explosion**

### **Robert “Skeet” Willingham:**

Washington is really where the Confederacy for all practical purposes died. Because it was here that the last acts of the Confederate government were signed; the last monies distributed. The Confederate gold itself came through this way. The Federal troops had taken the gold, removing it back to Washington, D.C. One night out, the gold train was attacked, probably by disgruntled Confederates, and much of it was robbed, perhaps \$400,000 was involved. And remember in today's money, that's \$3 ½ million.

### **Sue Davidson:**

Wilkes County was the last place it was ever seen in its entirety, and when the Union troops came to capture the supply wagons, all they ever found was \$110,000. So somewhere in Wilkes County, there's an awful lot of money.

### **David:**

The people of Washington, Georgia knew that the Confederate treasury was last seen somewhere in this town. So when they found this giant cast-iron chest in 1948, they decided to open it up and see if the treasure was inside. Locked!

### **Music**

### **Sue Davidson:**

They naturally thought they had found the lost Confederate gold. So they brought the trunk up to the town square. They got a locksmith, and he cut the lock, and he opened the trunk, and inside was one nickel. A 1929 nickel. The trunk was heavy because it was made out of cast-iron. And that trunk and the nickel and the newspaper story are in the library today. You can go see those.

### **David VO:**

Mark Waters has researched the lost gold. He's written essays, and concludes that the money is out there, but it may not be the actual Confederate treasury.

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### **Marshall Waters:**

There was \$450,000 worth of silver and gold coin—counted—from six Richmond, Virginia banks that traveled with the treasury but kept separate. And it was a 30-day odyssey to Washington, Georgia where the treasury was actually fully paid out here. The treasury. Now the Richmond, Virginia bank gold is \$3.6 million in today's value of silver and gold coin that remains missing. My research shows that the silver and gold coin that traveled with the treasury was actually packed in wooden kegs with silver and gold in amounts of \$5000 each in socks, sealed in a container. Wooden containers.

### **Music**

### **David VO:**

So there I was, armed with clues and a top-notch detector, searching the town square in Washington, Georgia for whatever I could find.

### **Music**

### **Detector beeps**

### **David:**

Oh, I have it on dirt. Let me switch it to metal.

### **Detector beeps**

### **David:**

There we go.

### **Robert "Skeet" Willingham:**

People still dig holes in the ground, and still look for it. They still want to find where here in town the treasure was given a repository.

### **Sue Davidson:**

People who live here know that the wealth is just being able to live in Wilkes County, but other people from the outside still come with metal detectors to find the gold.

### **David:**

And...23 cents. Alright!

### **Music**

### **David:**

Just know that when you're searching for the lost Confederate gold in Washington, Georgia that you may not be alone in this hunt. There have been

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sightings of actual Confederate soldiers, or at least their spirits, just a few miles down the road, here at the Callaway Plantation.

### **Michael Horgan:**

So I'd gone to bed. I had a buddy visiting with me and I heard my dog barking. Because I knew that there might be something wrong, I actually grabbed my pistol. And I made it down about as far as that tree down there, and that's when I saw Confederate cavalymen.

### **Music**

### **Michael Horgan:**

And I went down there and I just stopped because it was so eerie. My dog stopped barking. And we began to just stare at each other. I was afraid to make a move towards them; they were afraid to make a move towards me. At some point, my friend came out, and that went on for five, six, eight minutes. Ten minutes maybe. And they turned and went up what we call the Brick House Road here, and into the mist and they were gone. And so, and that was the thing, and we looked at each other and said, "We will never tell anybody this happened," 'cause we knew they wouldn't believe us.

### **David:**

Makes you wonder what they were looking for.

### **Michael Horgan:**

There's no telling what they were looking for. For all we know, they were waiting to get paid, you know, with the Confederate gold that everybody comes out here looking for. Who knows?

### **David:**

Well I didn't find the Confederate gold today; however I did find this 23 cents, so I guess I'll put it towards a nice place to stay. And everybody in town keeps telling me about the Fitzpatrick Hotel.

### **Music**

### **Ashley Barnett:**

The Fitzpatrick Hotel is an 1898 very historic hotel that overlooks our gorgeous town square. When you walk right out you'll see so many sandwich shops, stores, antique shops; you'll definitely have a place to go when you walk out of the Fitzpatrick and you just take in the square. If you've never been to Washington and seen the square, you definitely have to come see it.

### **David VO:**

Guillaume Slama bought the Fitzpatrick two years ago; after a major restoration, brought it back to life.

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**Guillaume Slama:**

Two Irish brothers decided to erect this building out here. They wanted to do things with class and style and all the modern amenities. And so they built this hotel which was the first hotel actually back then to have electricity and telephones even. Eventually the hotel was closed completely; shut, boarded. The retail spaces remained open for a while, but then the hotel started to fall down to the point that the city condemned the hotel. The place looked really rough. The rain had been coming in into the ballroom and into lots of different areas. There was nothing really salvageable, but they came in and working with what they could find, they restored the hotel completely to its previous glory.

**Sue Davidson:**

When the Fitzpatrick Hotel was renovated two years ago it definitely opened up a wealth of visitors, and it brought a resurgence back to the square.

**Guillaume Slama:**

The Fitzpatrick is the heart of Washington. Ever since it was built in 1898 people have been coming here for any party that they had. They've been using the ballroom for those parties. That ballroom, by the way, features the original application of the Edison lighting. This is how Edison had imagined lighting to be, and we still have the original setup from back then. These are the original apartments of the Fitzpatrick family. The parents lived in this little section and then the daughters lived in the room in the corner out there with the turret. The other guests would be staying into the back rooms or onto the third floor.

**David:**

Well, Guillaume, my stay here at the Fitzpatrick has been amazing. And this blackened salmon...Tre' bun!

**Guillaume Slama:**

Actually that's tre' bun.

**David:**

Tre' bone?

**Guillaume Slama:**

Tre' bun.

**David:**

Tre' bun.

**Guillaume Slama:**

You got it.

**Music**

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**Guillaume Slama:**

We have a restaurant downstairs that serves wonderful food. We want them to have a wonderful experience. We're taking our savoir fare and we're applying it to a different concept. We're doing a seafood/steakhouse in the restaurant of the hotel. The Fitzpatrick is just one of the wonderful things to do and see in Washington, Georgia. We are very lucky to live here in Washington and to be surrounded by all this beauty.

**David:**

And that concludes this episode of Georgia Traveler. We hope you join us next time. For Phil and Keely, I'm David Zelski, wishing you pleasant journeys. Ah, my ride!

**Car door slams**

**David:**

Hit it, Guillaume!

**Engine revs**

**Music**

**Woman VO:**

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**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.

**Man VO:**

This has been a production of Georgia Public Broadcasting.