

GEORGIA TRAVELER 207 CAPTION SCRIPT

Music

Phil:

On this episode of Georgia Traveler, we're driving down Hwy 280 from Plains to Vidalia in search of Family Fun.

David:

Looking for 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 where to go here at the Plains Visitors Center.

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, we 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

Phil:

Man, Plains, Georgia! Good afternoon...

Penny:

Well, hi, welcome to Plains. Can I help you?

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Phil:

Yeah, my name is Phil Proctor; I'm with Georgia Traveler.

Penny:

Well, hey, Phil. I'm Penny Smith.

Phil:

Hey, Penny, good to meet you! You know Penny, the 39th President of the United States from right here in Plains, and also the peanut. As I was thinking about peanuts, I started getting a little hungry, and I miss Mom's cooking. You got any place in town I can get a good meal like that?

Penny:

Well, we got the next best thing to your mom's cooking.

Phil:

What you got?

Penny:

That's Mom's Kitchen.

Phil:

Mom's Kitchen!

Penny:

It's great southern food.

Phil:

Oh, my goodness! You know what, Penny, I'm gonna have to go check that out. Keely was hungry too, and I was trying to find...hey, Keely! Keely! Keely? Keely?

Music

Keely VO:

Plains, Georgia. Home of former President Jimmy Carter.

Most Sundays the people of Plains can find Mr. Carter teaching Sunday school. But after school is over you'll usually find him at Mom's Kitchen, which he brought to his home town.

Gwen:

We have one location in um Preston and we've had that one since uh December 1981. And Mr. Carter sort of got my mom off in well he asked all if we'd open one in Plains. We all disagreed and then he got mom somehow by herself and got her to agree to open it.

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Keely VO:

Well if it's good enough for the president then it's good enough for me.
If you don't understand the allure, just listen to the menu...

Gwen:

Collard greens, turnips, turkey, dressing, fried chicken, um butter beans, cream corn, cream potatoes, rice, seafood, almost all kinds of soup and sandwiches. Anything you want really.

Keely VO:

A family tradition of great food passed down from generation to generation. While waiting in line I thought I would see why other people come to Mom's Kitchen.

Woman:

When Church gets out this is just a good place to come, it's close, it's easy, it's convenient and the food's really good.

Minister:

The food the service, the homey atmosphere.

Man:

OH yes. He asked to come. We was going to go back home from church and he said I want to go to Mom's Kitchen. So we said alright.

Gwen:

Some Sunday's is very very busy we have them way out the door and sometime they have to wait in line for a little while but we try to get them through as quickly as we can. They come and go to church and hear Mr. Carter teach and then they'll they always invite them to come to Mom's Kitchen.

Keely:

I'd like the turkey and gravy.

Keely:

Alright this is really one of my favorite meals, turkey and dressing. I like to have it all year around. Let's check it out. Taste's like Mom's. Imagine that!

Music**David:**

When you're driving along Hwy 280 and looking for some lesser-known cultural history, you need to stop at Koinonia Farms, located right in-between Americus and Plains. It's a hallowed place for civil rights history and the birthplace of Habitat for Humanity.

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Keely VO:

Koinonia Farm was founded in 1942. Located just south of Americus, Georgia Koinonia is an intentional Christian farming community—in other words—Koinonia is a commune.

Eleanor Castle:

It's a Greek word meaning, well, it means, "deep fellowship," or "things in common." It's used in Acts II in the New Testament to describe what the early Christians did, which was, they said that they held all things in common and gave according to need. So originally when Koinonia was founded in 1942, that was based on this idea of you give up all your goods and everything is shared equally according to need.

Keely VO:

Koinonia is open to visitors who wish to come to retreat, sabbatical or participate in the community life and helping in the labors. The founders, Clarence and Florence Jordan and Martin and Mabel England, planned Koinonia as a "demonstration plot for the Kingdom of God." amid the poverty and racism of the rural South. They envisioned an interracial community where blacks and whites could live and work together in a spirit of partnership.

Eleanor Castle:

Because blacks lived and worked here in the era of segregation, this was, became rather soon a subject of discussion and complaints, because that was not popular. Also living together and sharing, was sort of like, we called it a community, but people got the idea of a commune and that must be communistic and so through a good bit of the '50s there was a lot of legal harassment and then it turned in to violence when Koinonia didn't leave. It was mostly the KKK and the White Citizens' Council that shot into the campus, shot into houses. Dynamited their food stands, cut down their fruit trees. Would cut holes in the fence and let all the hogs out all throughout the county and then make sure they didn't get back in. Just, in everyway possible to discourage them.

Keely VO:

The violence and harassment continued though the late 60s forcing Koinonia to sell their goods through a mail catalog service. That service continues today. In the late 60s, another family joined Koinonia. Millard and Linda Fuller. Together they initiated a project to help build decent, affordable homes. Using volunteer labor and donations, Koinonia built 194 houses which families bought with 20-year, no-interest mortgages. In 1976, the housing project, now called Habitat for Humanity moved to Americus, GA.

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Eleanor Castle:

So that's kinda what Koinonia does, it sorta gets people inspired, and then they can go off and do their thing in their own way and we'll support them. So that's the amazing story. 200,000 houses later, all over the world, based on that one little idea, in fact, that one farmer saying, "We'd like to have a house."

Keely VO:

And life here carries on. Every morning there is a chapel services and morning meeting.

Norris Jerome Harris:

Every Wednesday morning I do a sermon. All the other mornings, I'm in charge of making sure a devotion takes place. I make sure all the devotions take place at noonday and any other religious activities that take place at Koinonia, I'm pretty well responsible for it. And I'm responsible for the upkeep of the pecan orchards, to make sure that the fertilizer gets out, the spring gets done, whether we gonna do 'em organic or conventional pecan farming, the orchards are actually in my hands.

Keely VO:

For our part, our stay at Koinonia has inspired some hard work on one of the campus houses.

Ann Karp:

it's what our day is made up of, it's this tapestry of prayer, work, study, service, and play. And so people like to get involved. We've had a lot of...we've had a couple pastors come for sabbaticals, and they're, "I'm just gonna retreat," and then they're seeing other people working, and they get into the work and they find it so nourishing to them to work with their hands, especially if they get that kind of task and they end up finding it very rejuvenating to work on their retreat, so, you know, all right! Sure!

Man:

Start with this side of the building, 'cause the backside is a lot worse, so I figure this one can get done quicker and we can go ahead and start priming it. But mostly on the woodwork is where the loose paint is.

And then Brendan has got a heat gun to remove those old glazing.

Woman:

Oh, it's all gonna come off?

Man:

Yeah.

Keely:

Wow, and then you're gonna re-caulk everything? Or reglaze it?

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Man:

We'll replace the broken glass and then put glazing back in there to hold the glass in. It's kind of like caulk, but a little thicker.

Keely:

Right. All right, it's a big job.

Man:

Yes, it is.

Woman:

I was all optimistic, I'm like, I think we'll be priming this morning! No, I think not...

Man:

I think that's enough to get started.

Woman:

I think that's enough to carry us through until lunch time.

Keely:

All right, let's start over here!

Keely:

Just this door could take till lunch!

Keely VO:

Earning our keep feels good and works up an appetite.

[bell ringing]

Keely VO:

Today, Koinonia remains committed to treating all human beings with dignity and justice, choosing love over violence, sharing according to need, not greed, and stewardship of the land.

Music**Keely:**

Inside the Georgia Visitors Center they have a guide to Georgia State Parks, and it looks like there's one right off 280 in McRae. And it has a golf course, so this looks like a job for David.

Music

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David VO:

As you continue your Mid-Georgia Meander, and feel a little rest and relaxation is in order, then Little Ocmulgee State park and lodge should be at the top of your list

David:

I'm here to check in.

Woman:

Okay, and our name sir? Do you have a reservation?

David:

Yes I do. It's under David. Oh, and let me get one of these.

Woman:

Alright. Would you like me to add that to your room sir?

David:

That'd be great.

Woman:

Alright. You're gonna be, not this building, but the second building on the golf course side. We sure hope enjoy your stay.

David:

Thank you very much. I look forward to it.

Willard McRae:

Peace and quiet you know it's very quiet here. You know you relax and you can do your actual jogging and walking of course the hiking trails and fishing. You know very safe and secure for families. You know just little Georgia great you know great Georgia getaway.

David:

If you're not up for hiking you may want to rent one of the bikes they have here it's a good way to see the over 2000 acres at Little Ocmulgee State Park.

David VO:

Have an evening cookout with the kids on one of the many park grills, enjoy an incredible meal at the lodge's grand dining room or journey out on the lake at sunrise in one of the many canoes you can rent. Take in the wildlife from the water or from one of the ten cottages located just off the shores. But whether you stay in the cottages or a comfortable room in the main lodge, you can't help but notice the beautiful Wallace Adams golf course, the centerpiece of the park.

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Don Gillis:

One of the things people enjoy the most is our golf package. Um they can come stay at the lodge um and have their lodge taken care of and their breakfast and uh 36 holes in a day. So it's a really great thing to have and it's a great price.

David:

You may have heard of the golf outing known as the greatest game ever played in fact there was actually a movie filmed right here in Georgia about it. Well the way I see it, records are made to be broken and here to help me along is the golf pro at the Wallace Adams Golf Course here at Little Ocmulgee State Park, Don Gillis. How are you?

Don Gillis:

Good to see you Dave.

David:

Nice to see you Don. Well good luck today.

Don Gillis:

Alright, well I just want to let you know that the course record is 62 and good luck to you.

David:

Alright, 61 here we come.

Music: Yo. That's right, no doubt. Representin' 2-1-3. Fa dubious, hey break, yeah. Yeah. The dubious.

Don Gillis:

Well the best thing to do David is uh try try to keep it out of the rough. In the rough again.

The fun part of it, this is a golf course that's very very favorable if you keep it in play, and uh if you keep it in the fairway you going to play pretty good most of the time here.

David:

Little did Don know, I was out on the Little Ocmulgee putt-putt course prior to our competition. Mastering my putting skills and fine-tuning my long-game. It looked like Don was going to be in for a long-day.

David:

Mulligan first hole, right?

Don Gillis:

Oh yeah.

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David:

Found my ball.

Don Gillis:

Yep. Doesn't look real good.

David:

What's that?

Oh, here it is!

David:

Good playing with you.

Don Gillis:

Enjoyed it. Thank you very much. Sorry you didn't break the course record.

David:

I tried, I tried. I came within what, 20?

Don Gillis:

20? On the front nine.

David:

Next time.

David:

Well I may not have golf the greatest game ever played in fact Don here beat me by quite a few strokes.

Don:

Yeah we had a good time today David but uh I think you ought to stick to the putt-putt.

David:

Yeah, I agree. Well, regardless, I sure had a great time here at Little Ocmulgee State Park.

Music

David:

If you're looking for an Outdoor Activity just off Highway 280, you can go to where the Oconee and the Okmulgee Rivers meet to form the Altamaha river, also known as Georgia's Little Amazon. So we got Phil, we got a canoe, and we put 'em in the water.

Music

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Phil VO:

Wild, rustic, Amazonian. If that's even a word. The Altamaha River provides many a splendor. Landings all along the River give outdoor activists different views of Georgia's country... to sea side. In order to experience the Altamaha for myself and make sure I stay out of trouble, Michael Gowen of Southeast Adventure is going to give me a tour of the Altamaha Delta, right here in Darien, Georgia.

Phil:

Michael Gowen.

Michael Gowen:

Hey Phil.

Phil:

How are you this morning?

Michael Gowen:

Doing great, doing great.

Phil:

Fantastic. Hey we're down here in Darien, at a tributary of the Altamaha River. And I'm going kayaking. Now Michael you're with Southeast Adventure. You guys do this all the time. What do I need to be prepared for today?

Michael Gowen:

Well we're going to have a good time on the river. It's going to be something easy and fun for you to do. If you've never done it you're going to have a great time. Kayaking is one of the easiest things to do and it comes naturally, real naturally for most people.

Phil:

Now, I just happened to notice you have a couple of different size kayaks. Are there many different sizes? And can I get into one.

Michael Gowen:

Uh yes with your size fifteen's uh we can probably uh get you in one. Um I even brought a kayak without a top just for you.

Phil:

Mike that that was cold to talk about my size fifteen's and everything.

Michael Gowen:

Now I brought you this one because it doesn't have a top and it's sort of a new style kayak. It's it's a mixture between a sit on top and a canoe. It uh has a low center of gravity, real user friendly. Obviously a different type of kayak. It has uh

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an enclosed cock pit which means that you're sitting down in the kayak. But what makes this one sea worthy and safe is you can wear what's called a spray skirt with it that goes around the edge there and you wear around your body that creates uh a water tight seal for the boat.

Phil VO:

After a quick lesson on kayak bodies it's time to get my feet or more importantly my paddle wet.

Michael Gowen:

If you kind of keep your elbows nice and low the paddle nice and low it keeps all your center of gravity nice and low. And just just uh kind of isolate your hips from your upper body and you're good to go. Being here in coastal Georgia you have to get in something that floats. If it's a boat, a power boat, or a kayak or a canoe, it's really anything that floats is going to be your best way to see what our beautiful coast has to offer.

Michael Gowen:

So this is General's Cut up here. It was uh man made cut that connects up the branches of the river here, help them float uh logs and and rice barges between the various parts of the Delta here. I thought we might stick our head down in there and see what we see.

I always say uh coastal Georgia has a huge trail system, it's just all wet. And the kayaks are our backpacks, mountain bikes all rolled into one.

Phil:

Michael I tell you what I've had a good time out here today, I learned a lot about kayaking and got a chance to see a lot of the wildlife and the nature. Tell you what, let's just keep going for a little while because uh I want to work up an appetite for lunch...

Michael Gowen:

Ok and I see a good place to go right down the river.

Phil:

Mike that's an alligator.

[laughter]

Music

Keely:

Well being in Plains, you really can't help but think of the Georgia peanut.

Penny Smith:

That's right, and you know that the peanut is the official state crop of Georgia.

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Keely:

Wow.

Penny Smith:

And also we have a state vegetable.

Keely:

And what's that?

Penny Smith:

That's the Vidalia Onion.

Keely:

How can you celebrate the Vidalia Onion?

Penny Smith:

Well, the last weekend in April, they have a big Vidalia Onion festival.

Keely:

Wow, that sounds fun.

Music

Phil:

It's Sweet Onion time in Georgia!

Music

David:

Welcome to the one and only Vidalia Onion Festival. Where you'll find everything from a Monster truck called Old Glory to a sack full of sweet onions.

Phil:

There was so much to experience during this three day extravaganza in late April that David and I decided to split up and explore the massive festival which spread out all over town.

David:

When in Vidalia, there are two ways you can get around to see the Vidalia Onion Festival...you can do it my way by land...@ 01:14:35 - tape 2

Phil:

Or you can do it my way, by air.

Music

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David:

And joining Phil in the air was an assembly of one of the nation's top air shows featuring a B-2 Bomber and the incredible death-defying black daggers sky-diving team.

Pete White:

We free fall for about a minute and out away from our team leader we open our parachutes and slow down from about 120 miles an hour to about 20 miles an hour in about 3 or 4 seconds.

David:

Being that high above the Vidalia Onion Festival, could you smell the onions cooking?

Pete White:

We could smell the onions. In fact, ah, the first thing my girlfriend said to me was eh, are you going to get to bring some onions home? So, I'm hoping somebody will come up with some onions for me.

David:

After making it safely back to land, Phil realized he was hungry. So he decided to scope out the festival menu, which of course features the Vidalia onion.

Woman:

We are selling Vidalia onions and sauces that we have at our home.

Phil:

How do you eat a Vidalia onion?

Man:

There's many different ways. Some of the most popular is of course the Bloomin' Onion, onion rings, one of my favorites is take an onion, wrap it up in aluminium foil, put you some butter, some season-all, throw it on the grill until it gets nice and soft. Then eat it just like you would a chip. It's the best way to eat it.

Phil:

I also understand that you can eat them raw if you want to. How about that?

Man:

Yes, sir. You sure can. Like I said, sweetest onion, you won't even cry.

Elizabeth Bosch:

I think it's our mild climate and then the low sulfur in the ground that makes a Vidalia Onion truly unique. And it's only in Vidalia

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Phil:
VIDAYA!

Elizabeth Bosch:
that you can get a true Vidalia Onion. So, well, there's 13 surrounding counties, but Vidalia is the seat of the Vidalia Onion.

David VO:
So if you are wondering how this onion craze got started, you must journey back to the 1930s when a farmer named Mose Coleman discovered that the onions he had planted were not hot, as he expected, they were sweet and tasty. Soon after, other farmers caught on and the Vidalia onion began selling at local grocery marts. At that time, the folks in Georgia knew they had something special and when the Onion festival began 30 years ago, the Vidalia Onion craze swept the country. Wait, what's that smell? Is that Turkey legs? At an onion festival?

Phil:
Why are you carrying around two turkey legs?

Woman:
I have a six year old who won't hold his own turkey leg.

Phil:
And how come you won't hold your own turkey leg? Look at that, now you droppin' your ice!

[laughter]

David VO:
After the nice lady tempted Phil with turkey legs, He and I joined forces, traveled across town and conquered some of the festival rides.

Phil VO:
As you can see I was more in the mood for onions than for ferris wheels, so we headed to the arts and crafts section of the festival and guess what? More onions!

Phil VO:
And just in case you have a severe case of onion-itis while you're here...

Phil:
And David Zelski. Aw, he's going to love this. Hey, Dave. Guess what? I just signed us up for the onion eating contest.

David VO:

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I got over my initial shock and decided to make the most of it...after all, these were sweet onions. But as Phil and I studied the list, we noticed one unexpected competitor.

David:

Phil, I've looked at the list and it looks like this onion eating contest is gonna to come down to you and me.

Phil:

I don't want to alarm you, okay. Have you looked over here?

David:

Oh.

Phil:

There's something very unnatural about a Yumion that's an onion in an onion eating contest.

David:

Yeah, that's not right.

David VO:

Lucky for Phil and I, Yumion was not allowed to participate in the eating competition...being a different species and all...

Phil VO:

So the Georgia Traveler Vidalia Onion eating showdown was ready to begin.

[crowd cheering]

Phil:

Alright. It is good.

Man:

That's two minutes, one minute left to go.

Man:

6, 5, 4, 3, 2, one. Stop.,

[crowd cheers]

Phil:

You cheated.

David:

I think I got ten. Oh, uh, three.

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Man:

Phil Proctor from Georgia Public Television with four onions wins third place.

Phil:

So I came in third and won a prize. As for David, well, he participated. I guess that counts for something.

Phil:

So whether you eat your onions in butter...batter... or just bite into it raw...There is no substitute for the Sweet Vidalia Onion.

Music

Phil:

Well, that's it for this edition of Georgia Traveler. We'd like to thank, Penny, Linda...

David:

Jimmy...

Phil:

And all our friends here at the Visitor Information Center in Plains.

Keely:

We hope you'll join us for the next episode of Georiga 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.

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Music

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.

Music

Man VO:

This has been a production of Georgia Public Broadcasting.