

**GEORGIA TRAVELER 208
CAPTION SCRIPT**

Music

Keely:

On this episode of Georgia Traveler, we'll be driving the Pine Mountain Loop in search of family fun...

Phil:

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

Keely:

And don't forget, a local legend. We'll be starting our trip at Callaway Gardens, founded in part to save plants like this native plumb leaf azalea behind us.

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

Keely VO:

We begin our exploration of the Pine Mountain Loop on a getaway to one of Georgia's best known resorts, Callaway Gardens.

Rachel Crumbley:

GEORGIA TRAVELER 208 CAPTION SCRIPT

Callaway Gardens was founded on May 21st. It was created, if you will, by Cason and Virginia Callaway. They are originally from LaGrange, Georgia, and they were part of the Callaway Mills, that was what his father had started. And over the years, Cason Callaway started developing health problems, and he would come to Harris County to just kind of picnic, relax. Eventually he owned 40,000 acres in Harris County. He created the Gardens as a non-profit organization owned by the Ida Cason Callaway Foundation. It's a 501c3, and we're dedicated to environmental education and stewardship, which also means that our mission is then to integrate man and nature in a way that benefits both. People come to Callaway Gardens for lots of different reasons. Some people, the very first thing they think of is golf. We also have tennis, we have a gun club, fishing and fly fishing. We have a horticultural center, a vegetable garden, 10 miles of bike trails, just lots and lots of different things to do. And of course we offer four types of accommodations, our newest being the Lodge and Spa at Callaway Gardens. It's a new luxury accommodation. It has 150 rooms and all the rooms have individual balconies to the outdoors. They have European soaking tubs and glassed-in showers. They have these wonderful beds that have feather-top mattresses with feather bedding. There's gonna be five pillows, and some are gonna be feather, and some are gonna be foam, so that you can choose to make it most comfortable for your stay. We have flat panel screen televisions, and mp3 docking stations, and wireless internet, as well as hardwired. You know, all those little things that make it very comfortable and address your needs to make it just a very relaxing visit. There's 35,000 square feet of meeting space, and then we have these rooms as well as the new 13,000 square foot spa. And the spa is something that people have been asking for at Callaway Gardens for a long time. So we're glad to finally have it. And we do hair and nails, the spa treatments...

Keely VO:

Spa treatments? That sounds like something we should check out!

Keely:

Of the many services available at Spa Pernofolia, there are several kinds of massage.

Music

Phil:

You wearing your man sandals? Consider a pedicure.

Music

Phil:

You only have to sit in this chair one time to realize that every man needs a good back massage.

**GEORGIA TRAVELER 208
CAPTION SCRIPT**

Phil:

Well, now that I'm feeling pampered and relaxed, what better time to hit the links?

Golf club hits ball.

Phil:

Oh, my goodness!

Rachel Crumbley:

We were home to the Buick Challenge, which is a PGA golf tournament, for 12 years, so we're very proud of that. Currently we have 36 holes, and what's exciting is we're getting ready to open a new practice facility called the Twin Oaks Golf Practice Facility, and it will be equal if not better than any other golf facility in the nation. Phil today played on Mountain View. He was on number one, which was the site of the PGA Tournament, so where he stood and where he hit is where legends have been. Whether it was Tiger Woods, who practiced here; he actually left that tournament. But Tiger Woods, Phil Michelson, any of the greats, most of them have been here, Sergio Garcia. So he was on hallowed ground for him, I'm sure.

Keely VO:

Golf has been a part of Callaway from the start in 1952, but tropical butterflies found a home here back in 1988.

Rachel Crumbley:

One of the featured things at Callaway Gardens is actually the most favorite thing for visitors to do is the Cecil B. Day Butterfly Center. It's a glass conservatory with more than a thousand butterflies in free flight at all times. So that's a wonderful place for people of all ages to go to, and I love to go and just watch the wonderment and amazement on peoples' faces as they stand there, regardless, like I said, of their age, to see this happening.

Music

Keely:

Here you go. We can identify all the butterflies.

Phil:

Oh, we can identify them? What are you saying? You wanna?

Keely:

Well, you're competitive, right?

Phil:

Are you challenging me?

**GEORGIA TRAVELER 208
CAPTION SCRIPT**

Keely:

I'm challenging you!

Phil:

You don't want no part of this! You know you don't want no part of this! Okay, what's the rule?

Keely:

How about ho identifies more butterflies in 10 minutes. I'll meet you back here...honor system.

Phil:

Oh, yeah, trust me! Let's roll!

Phil:

...it just flew overhead. There it is. Right there.

Keely:

The blue morpho. Wow, those are pretty!

Phil:

I know; we got that one. Alright, that's two to one.

Keely:

I've got two!

Phil:

Okay, good. See there's another one...

Keely:

I've got two!

Phil:

I'm counting it even though it's the same thing.

Keely:

No, no, no! You can't count the same species.

Phil:

You never said that. You never said we couldn't do that!

Keely:

A different...

Keely:

GEORGIA TRAVELER 208
CAPTION SCRIPT

Alright.

Phil:

Okay, how'd you do?

Keely:

What's your total?

Phil:

Must have been about 13...I already knew mine. How come you didn't have all this counted up?

Keely:

I have 14. 15!

Phil:

Okay, fine!

Keely:

How many'd you have?

Phil:

14.

Keely:

I win by one! Ha ha ha!

Phil:

That's fine...

Keely:

You let me win...

Rachel Crumbley:

Callaway Gardens was intended to provide people with a place to come and be together, so families come and stay for a weekend vacation; they come for the day. There's families that have been coming for 38 years in a row, because it's part of the fabric of their lives. So we really are glad the families come and enjoy that so much.

Keely VO:

No matter how long you get to stay, Callaway Gardens makes for a great getaway.

Phil VO:

**GEORGIA TRAVELER 208
CAPTION SCRIPT**

While Keely and I enjoy our visit to Callaway Gardens, David is just down the road finding family fun of a wild variety.

David:

When you arrive upon the gates of the Pine Mountain Wild Animal Safari, you can't help but think you're about to enter Jurassic Park, however here the attractions don't eat the tourists...or so we're told.

Music

David VO:

This isn't your everyday petting zoo. The 500 acre park is split up into two parts. The Walk-About, which speaks for itself, and the Serengeti Adventure, which features animals from every continent in the world, except Antarctica.

David:

Maybe we are in Jurassic Park...

Reggie Copeland:

You'll see axis deer, black bucks, yaks; you'll see Texas longhorns, Watusi cows, water buffalos, American bison.

David VO:

The Walk-About has everything from a gator named Big Al, to a family of ligers...that's right ligers...Papa was a lion, and mama was a tiger...seriously...

Reggie Copeland:

The lion cub and the tiger cub grew up in the same pen, and it was done natural. They got along and they made it, 'cause you wouldn't never find'em in the wild, so...

David:

And there aren't many places in the country that do this?

Reggie Copeland:

Nope, not natural. We do it natural around here.

David:

Tiger for a father; lion for a mother would be a tigon.

Music

Bear sniffs into microphone.

**GEORGIA TRAVELER 208
CAPTION SCRIPT**

David VO:

The Walk-About is quite an experience, but the Serengeti Adventure is what makes this park so unique. It's also where I learned about zedonks. That's right, papa was a zebra; mama was a donkey...seriously...

Zedonk slurps.

David VO:

And head deep into the park and you may find a girocadile; half giraffe, half crocodile...okay, I just made that one up...

David:

You want to see a giraffe today?

Little Girl:

Yes.

David:

You know what the giraffe's name is here?

Little Girl:

No.

David:

Too Tall.

Little Girl:

Too Tall!

David:

Too Tall here is very gentle. Now wherever Too Tall is, you're always gonna find Nelly. Nelly is a nilgai, and also Too Tall's personal bodyguard. Here you go, buddy. There you go. Hey, stop it; stop it! That's polite; this is just plain rude!

David VO:

Most people take the Zebra vans or the Safari bus through this hands-on experience...

David:

Alright Reggie, word is, you're the best driver here.

David VO:

...but you are welcome to take your own vehicle. Just know, both you and your car will be slimed.

David:

**GEORGIA TRAVELER 208
CAPTION SCRIPT**

Come on, feed me! Feed me!

David VO:

And to avoid excess slime, please stay in your vehicle.

David:

Oh, you got the bag! Hey, this guy got out! You're in big trouble, mister! How do you stop a rhino from charging? Take away his credit card!

Trombone snort

David VO:

Zedonks, ligers, rhinos, Too Tall the giraffe, and his bodyguard Nelly are all part of this daytime exploration. So instead of taking the family on safari around the world this weekend, save a few bucks and journey to Pine Mountain, Georgia. Too Tall's a-waitin'!

Music

Keely VO:

From Family Fun to the Great Outdoors, it's time to take a hike!

Music

Keely VO:

We're here at the entrance of FDR State Park. It's the largest state park in Georgia. This is also the entrance to the Pine Mountain Trail, some 20 miles of great hiking through middle Georgia. We're gonna take this route and stop along the way checking out overlooks, historic buildings, and FDR's favorite picnic spot.

Music

Keely VO:

Volunteers began constructing this trail in 1975. At the time there were a number of hiking trails and some horse trails and by connecting and reworking these existing trails, the longer Pine Mountain Trail was created.

Jim Hall:

During the five years it took to build the Pine Mountain Trail, and we say build—it actually had to be flagged, approved, cleared, marked, and then signage put up. It was estimated it took over 7000 hours of working on the trail.

Music

Keely VO:

GEORGIA TRAVELER 208 CAPTION SCRIPT

Most of the trail is located in FDR State Park, one of the first and largest state parks in Georgia. The park was constructed as a part of the Civilian Conservation Corps program during the depression of the 1930s.

Buddy Sullivan:

This was a very important concept in which people unemployed were able to gain work on public projects.

Keely VO:

Young men between the ages of 18 and 25 flocked to enroll. They were paid 30 dollars a month, 25 of which was sent directly home to the young man's family.

Debbie Wallsmith:

FDR, which of course was one of the very first CCC parks, because FDR, himself, more or less supervised it from Warm Springs, which is just across the mountain.

Keely VO:

President Roosevelt not only took an interest, but he had a direct influence into some of the park facilities.

Billy Townsend:

Down at the swimming pool, which is a very interesting shape, he looked at it and he said, "Well, it's kind of in the shape of the Liberty Bell!" And ever since that date it's been called the Liberty Bell Pool.

John Pearce Head:

It gets me. It gets me that we didn't know what we were building. We knew it was an unusual pool, and a nice pool, but we didn't know it would impress people like it has today.

Keely VO:

Every year over 4000 come here to hike and sign the registration books located along the trail.

Music

Jim Hall:

One of the factors has to do with the terrain and the climate. Here at FDR State Park you can hike pretty much year round without a real problem. The terrain here is something like north Georgia, without having to be a lot of steep grades. We have named parking lots, there are a number of places where the trail crosses the highway, so people are able to park and able to hike a short distance or make a long loop. And that was one of the things the Pine Mountain Trail Association continues to do, is to the trail more accessible in rerouting, if necessary, to lessen the steep grades up and down the hill.

**GEORGIA TRAVELER 208
CAPTION SCRIPT**

Music

Keely:

Well, it's been a great hike, but I've got quite a few more miles to go. So I'm just gonna take a little break here at FDR's favorite picnic spot, meanwhile, Phil gets to enjoy a hot meal down at the Bulloch House down in Warm Springs.

Music

Phil VO:

Located on Georgia Highway 41, just south of Main Street in the town of Warm Springs, sits the Bulloch House restaurant. The beautiful Queen Anne-style home was built in 1893 by Benjamin F. Bulloch, co-founder of the town of Warm Springs. In 1990, it was purchased by Judy Foster and her brother and sister-in-law, Charles and Sylvia Garrett, with the idea of opening a restaurant. Judy was nice enough to give me the grand tour of this grand home.

Judy Foster:

This is the front part of the Bulloch House and it's the porch. Actually when you enter the Bulloch House you enter from the side entrance, but this is the front part of the house that faces the street. And you can dine out here also like you can inside the restaurant.

Phil:

How many people do you guys get on a, let's say a lunch time?

Judy Foster:

Lunch time? We serve on normal day between two and four hundred people depending on the time of the year. On Sundays we serve between six and eight hundred, on Sundays.

Phil:

Now most of your patrons are they locals, are they visitors?

Judy Foster:

No, we serve a lot of tourists. We also have the local people which we are very proud to have, but this business is based on tourism because they come here to visit the Little White House and they come and eat with us.

Phil:

Where are we going now?

Judy Foster:

Okay, Phil, I'm going to take you in the old part of the house which is over a hundred years old. It's your...you have your main hallway down the middle, you

**GEORGIA TRAVELER 208
CAPTION SCRIPT**

have dining halls on each side. We have four rooms in the main part of the house, and I'm going to show you here. This room seats about 18. The rest of them seat about 20 a piece. And we have four rooms in the main part. This gives you a little private dining by having separate rooms like this. I'm going to take you back a little bit later to the bigger banquet room.

Phil:

So Judy you told me that the house is like, it's a house divided. It was an old part and a new part. Where are we now?

Judy Foster:

Right. We're in the new part. Where you see the red walls, that's the new part of the Bulloch House. The white woodwork is over 100 years old. We had to distinguish between the two because we're on the Historical Register. So it begins here, and then I'll take you down to the big banquet room.

Phil:

Okay, let's go to the big banquet room.

Phil VO #3

As I walked the hallway towards the big banquet room I couldn't help but notice all the beautiful floral arrangements throughout the house. I wanted to know who was responsible for the designs.

Judy McCurdy:

It is so much fun just being able to have the freedom to create. And we have so much to work with, that's the biggest thing. If you have good things to work with, then you can make good things. And just being with Judy and Charles and Sylvia and Lisa, it's a wonderful place to be. So they're just like my family, too. We're all family here; it's great.

Phil VO:

You truly get a sense of family when you're around the good folks of the Bulloch House. Judy oversees the overall operations, Charles is responsible for keeping the buffet full, Sylvia manages the kitchen, and let me tell you, her homemade biscuits are second to none! But according to Sylvia, it's the staff that deserves a lot of the credit.

Phil:

Now, there's not a kitchen that I go in that I don't need to be stirring a pot. I got it, everything's under control, ladies! Don't worry about it, okay!

Phil VO:

After my tour of the house and my time in the kitchen, it was time to step onto hallowed ground. Bring on the buffet! But first, I needed to learn about the legendary pulley bone!

**GEORGIA TRAVELER 208
CAPTION SCRIPT**

Judy Foster:

I forgot to tell you about the pulley bone. I know Jed mentioned...

Phil:

Pulley bone?

Judy Foster:

You know what a pulley bone is?

Phil:

What is a pulley bone? Do you guys? What is a...

Judy Foster:

How old are you, Phil?

Phil:

Oh, now you want me to tell my age...I'm about that old...

Judy Foster:

Okay, alright.

Phil:

What's a pulley bone?

Judy Foster:

Well, you take the part of the breast, the two breasts are together, and you cut off the pulley bone. That's the pulley bone, Phil! Right there! That's the pulley bone, better known as a wish bone.

Phil:

Okay, let me hold that for a second. Yeah, just grab that. Let me see. That's a wish bone, okay. I have learned something that this is...but you called it a pulley bone.

Judy Foster:

A pulley bone. And what you do, you eat the chicken, and then there's this little pulley bone left, and you stick it under the table to your partner, she pulls one end of it, you pull the other. The one who gets the biggest side makes a wish and it comes true.

Phil:

You eat the chicken?

Judy Foster:

You eat the chicken first, yeah. You eat the chicken first.

**GEORGIA TRAVELER 208
CAPTION SCRIPT**

Phil:

I was just trying to eat the chicken. We can pull the bone later, but right now I'm gonna eat this chicken.

Phil VO:

Now the Bulloch House also has a gift shop. You can take home some of the fresh fruit jams, salad dressings, or Papa Garrett's stewed tomatoes. Mmm, mmm, good!

Phil:

Ta-da! Alright, I had a great time down here at the Bulloch House. I want to thank Judy and all her family. Once again, another Fantastic Food Find for Phil. Just don't know where I'm gonna start. Yeah, I guess I'll just mix 'em together. Ooh that, oh that's good. Y'all should smell that!

Phil VO:

While I keep eating, David is off to explore our local legend.

David VO:

Warm Springs is famous as the location of the Little White House, the vacation retreat of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Roosevelt first came in the 1920s in hopes that the warm water of the natural springs would improve his paraplegia caused by polio. He later created a hydro-therapy center for the treatment of polio patients, promoting the use of spring water, which was instrumental to his own rehabilitation.

David Burke:

We have a unique resource. It's one of Georgia's Seven Natural Wonders, and Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt came hunting for a cure for polio back in the 1920s before he was governor; before he was president. And he found the water, swimming in the water so beneficial to his polio that he was able to move his leg for the first time in three years.

David VO:

This historic site is now operated by the Georgia State Parks System. On Labor Day weekend an annual event called Dip Into the Past opens the springs to the public. Visitors have the opportunity to experience the therapeutic waters that help many people deal with the debilitating effects of polio.

David Burke:

As a treat for what started out for local folks to give them an opportunity to get back in the water, it just kind of spread out to where when we did put it on the internet, people from all over the country started calling in, wanting to make a reservation. "We want to come swim in your pool." They've heard about it, they've seen it, they've seen the movies, they've seen the stories. They knew

**GEORGIA TRAVELER 208
CAPTION SCRIPT**

what President Roosevelt went through, and people from across the country and around the world know what this is. And here when we fill them up, it gives people an opportunity to get in and swim in the springs. It's an incredible swim. It's close to your body temperature, so it's very comforting. And that's what many of the patients found beneficial to it, was you could get into it, swim in it for hours at a time. Because of the mineral content, it keeps you lifted with the bicarbonate, it keeps you floating. The minerals in it, it's almost Epsom salt-like, so it's very soothing. So you go swimming in the water, after you get out, you're very relaxed. It's a great feeling. Your skin is soft as silk. It's like a cream rinse in your hair; it's like a lotion on your skin. This is like it was 80 years ago. This is exactly how you would have seen it, with the crystal clear blue water. You can see why not only, why the locals loved it, but why President Roosevelt loved it. If nothing else, it looks like a little jewel.

David VO:

The buoyancy of these legendary waters also allowed me to work on my synchronized swimming routine.

Music: Waltz of the Flowers

David VO:

After experiencing the springs, visitors can go to the campus of the Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation. The institute plays host to an exhibit which chronicles the history of polio in America.

Gary Schmieg:

The exhibit here at Roosevelt Warm Springs is actually called "Whatever Happened to Polio." And it's the national polio exhibit that has been loaned to us by the Smithsonian Museum of American History. And as you walk through the exhibit you'll find different display that relate to the disease itself, the beginning of the disease. There are displays on the impact of the disease throughout the different parts of our country, personal experiences in terms of individuals who suffered through the disease. You'll see a lot of artifacts including President Roosevelt's braces. You'll see an iron lung. We have one of our prized possessions, now, is a bottle of the original vaccine that was donated to us by the Salk family. When somebody comes and walks through the exhibit, I hope what they see is not so much the science about polio and the disease or the vaccine, but again the personal experience of how it really affected our country. This was something that really happened in my lifetime. It's something that was as widespread as HIV/AIDS is today. Something that concerned our country and they didn't know how to deal with it, so I think they'll be struck by the impact that the epidemic had on our country and the willingness to fight it and to actually overcome it.

David VO:

**GEORGIA TRAVELER 208
CAPTION SCRIPT**

The history of these pools can perhaps be best shared by Suzanne Pike, a volunteer tour guide and former patient.

Suzanne Pike:

I go back a long way. I was the first non-polio patient here in '32. Mr. Roosevelt was just getting a hospital underway, and he asked the doctor from Scottish Rite to come down and start a surgical wing. He told Mr. Roosevelt, "I've seen this patient. She's quite young, and she could get this treatment." And Mr. Roosevelt's reply, "by all means," to bring her. That was me in January of '32. I did like to swim in the water where I can stand up without my braces on. Mr. Roosevelt, he was the greatest humanitarian, and certainly, the best president. 'Course I'm a little prejudiced, too.

David VO:

While I continue to dip into the past, we hope you'll join us for future episode of Georgia Traveler. Until then, I'm David Zelski, wishing you pleasant journeys.

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.

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Woman VO:

And by supporters of Georgia Public Broadcasting. Thank you.

Music

Man VO:

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Man VO:

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