

Prepared for the Legacy Club, TNC

LITTLE ST. SIMONS ISLAND

March 9th-14th, 2025

WELCOME TO LITTLE ST. SIMONS ISLAND!

The Nature Conservancy is working with the owners and staff of Little St. Simons Island (LSSI) to ensure the beaches, forests, and salt marshes remain healthy and continue to flourish as an important part of the South Atlantic coastal region—an area that supports one of the East Coast’s most prosperous commercial and recreational fisheries. The Conservancy holds a conservation easement on LSSI and works closely with the LSSI ecological manager and other staff to recommend best management practices and to determine research and monitoring priorities, putting conservation of the island’s habitats and species first.

Long ago, TNC made the Altamaha River a focus of its freshwater and coastal conservation work, purchasing its first parcels in the watershed in the late 1960s – two small islands formed from the sediment and sand the river washes downstream.

The Conservancy’s long commitment to the Altamaha and coast has become a testing ground for a bold new conservation strategy of protecting entire landscapes and ecosystems. We have protected more than 280 miles of ecologically important lands within the watershed, including creating a more than 50-mile contiguous corridor of conserved lands all the way out to coastal barrier islands. By increasing coastal resilience, The Nature Conservancy aims to reduce the current and growing risks to coastal communities from natural hazards and climate change using natural solutions and smart development.

Please join us for a special retreat exploring this pristine, protected area. Thank you for your interest in traveling with The Nature Conservancy.

CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

THE ALTAMAHA RIVER

With more than 7,400 miles of shoreline, the Georgia coast is among the world's most naturally diverse and intact coastal habitats. With sandy beaches, acres of maritime forests, and nearly one-third of all the salt marshes in the eastern United States, more than 55,000 resident and migratory shorebirds and seabirds use the Georgia coast each year.

The Altamaha River Delta – a 135-square mile area beginning at the Southern tip of Sapelo Island and extending south to encompass Wolf, Egg, Little Egg, and Little St. Simons islands in McIntosh and Glynn counties – is among the most noted Georgia habitats for seabirds and shorebirds, including the American oystercatcher. From the loggerhead sea turtle to the shortnose sturgeon, from the northern right whale to the blue crab, species of all shapes and sizes benefit from Georgia's robust coastal estuaries.

In 1999, the Mexico-based Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network recognized the Altamaha River Delta as the 40th major reserve for shorebirds. The National Audubon Society has designated the delta as one of the country's top 500 Important Birding Areas.

Our work in this region is contributing to our global goal of safeguarding 60,000 miles of the world's most precious sources of fresh water. As the global population soars, demands for food, energy, and shelter are putting unprecedented pressure on our planet – and water is at the heart of this crisis. The Nature Conservancy's plan is to fundamentally change the way our most precious resource – water – is used and managed so that nature and people can thrive together.

ITINERARY OVERVIEW

Little St. Simons Island, GA

March 9

SUNDAY

Please plan to arrive at the Jacksonville International Airport by 1:30 p.m. The group shuttle will depart JAX at 2:00 p.m., and you will be driven to the Hampton River Marina on Saint Simons Island, which is approximately 1.5 hours away. The boat from the marina to Little St. Simons Island will depart at 4:00 p.m. On the boat ride, you will get the chance to cruise through coastal Georgia salt marshes; keep an eye out for wildlife! **Please be aware that accessing the island ferry includes a floating ramp at both the marina and the island that can be steep during low tide, as well as a few stairs up onto the boat.**

After settling into your rooms, we will congregate at 6:00 p.m. for a social half hour, during which you can meet your fellow travelers and your hosts. Enjoy an appetizer while relaxing in the shade of ancient moss draped oaks. The Lodge's chef will have dinner prepared by 6:30 p.m. and we will move to the dining room. At 7:45 p.m., you will learn more about the ecology of the surrounding area and what you can expect for the week ahead.

Overnight at The Lodge on Little St. Simons Island, GA

March 10

MONDAY

Early in the morning, a continental breakfast will be available for those who wish to grab a quick bite and head out on their own. At 7:30 a.m., a morning birding excursion will be available and will return to the Lodge in time for breakfast with the group. At the 9:00 a.m. group breakfast, a naturalist will explain the activity options for the day and will be available to answer any questions you may have.

We will hold a social half hour at 6:00 p.m., and dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Overnight at The Lodge on Little St. Simons Island, GA

March 11-13

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

The format of each of these days will closely resemble day 2, with a morning and an afternoon activity and all meals together with the group. Find examples of possible activities at the end of the itinerary description.

Overnight at The Lodge on Little St. Simons Island, GA

March 14

FRIDAY

We hope that you have enjoyed your stay on Little St. Simons Island and will return home with many memories! After breakfast, the boat between the island and the marina will depart at 10:00 a.m. As a group, you will be driven from the marina to the Jacksonville International Airport to catch your flight home, or to your next destination.

ISLAND ACTIVITIES

North End Adventure

Enjoy a guided informative truck trip up island to learn about the island's cultural and natural history.

Hikes

Embark on a guided hike from the Lodge along the trails and see the flora and fauna with an island naturalist. Island hiking is mostly flat terrain, with shorter hikes of about a mile and longer hikes of two to three miles.

Creek Paddling

Explore the tidal salt marshes surrounding Little St. Simons Island by kayak. After a quick refresher on paddling technique, your naturalist will guide you on a leisurely trip through this remarkable habitat. You'll see birds and other wildlife you wouldn't be able to see from the trails. *Please note guests with mobility issues may not be able to kayak during their visit.*

Reptile-Amphibian Safari

Enjoy a guided truck excursion to a variety of habitats in search of native reptiles and amphibians.

South End Adventure

Go on a truck adventure to Little St. Simons Island's south end, where Slash and Loblolly pine trees tower. You will learn why the pine forest habitat exists and how fires play an important role in plant succession on the island.

Birding at Myrtle Pond

Join a naturalist on a truck excursion to the viewing towers and blinds at Myrtle Pond to look for waterfowl and wading birds. Viewing blinds are ground level, but towers do require climbing stairs.

Shorebirding

Join one of our naturalists for a shorebirding excursion out at our seven miles of pristine beach habitat.

Boat Tour on Nearby Waterways

Join Island naturalists on a boat-based excursion through tidal creeks and salt marsh habitat.

Bike Adventure

Learn more of the flora and fauna on a guided bike adventure with an island naturalist. You might spot armadillos or a variety of resident and migratory birds along the way. Or join a naturalist for a perspective of how the cultural history has shaped the natural history of Little St. Simons Island. *Please note that guests with mobility issues will be unlikely to enjoy a bike tour of the island due to road conditions.*

Garden Walk

Enjoy a guided walk through our Organic Garden and learn about the herbs, vegetables, flowers, fruits, cover crops, and compost.

Pond Adventure

Take a tour of the natural freshwater ponds around the island that harbor an abundance of American alligators and wading birds such as herons and egrets.

Downtime

If you are seeking a quieter afternoon, simply relax on the banks of Mosquito Creek under a live oak with a good book.

Please Note: All truck-based activities and shuttles require the mobility to be able to get up via a small set of stairs and ride in the back of a modified 4x4 truck.

LODGING & MEALS

The Lodge on Little St. Simons

The Lodge on Little St Simons Island is a small operation and a historic property, and guests attending events here should be prepared for a rustic experience. Lodging includes cabins with shared living room spaces, plus rooms in the main lodge itself. Everything is within easy walking distance of the main lodge.

The Island is also haven for all sorts of wildlife, including mosquitoes and biting insects. Due to our conservation efforts, we do not spray, and bugs are abundant.

A certain amount of mobility is required to enjoy your visit. Most buildings are historic and have a short flight of stairs at the entrance. The main Lodge can be accessed via a small ramp. The ecolodge is situated on the creek and visiting the beach on your own does require a two-mile bike ride.

Dining

All meals are freshly prepared by the Island Chef and served family-style in the main Lodge at fixed times. The Lodge is happy to accommodate dietary restrictions with advanced notice.

COSTS

Total per person costs are based on 24 guests minimum, 30 guests maximum.

Notes:

Single Occupancy Cost: \$5,125

Double Occupancy Cost: \$3,313

This cost includes:

Accommodations

Group ground transportation

All meals beginning with dinner on Day 1 and ending with breakfast on Day 6

All activities

All gratuities

All guides

Client hosts

A commission back to the host program

This cost does not include:

Travel to and from trip start

Travel insurance

Incidentals

Alcohol

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Payment and Cancellation Terms

Deposit:

50% of the per person cost is due at the time of registration

Full Trip Payment:

Due 90 days prior to trip start

- Cancellation 90+ days prior to trip departure: Full deposit is refundable, less a \$50 cancellation fee
- Cancellation 0-89 days prior to trip departure: Full deposit is non-refundable

If you need to cancel, please contact Shana Love with The Lodge on Little St. Simons Island at shana@littlessi.com or 888-733-5774.

Contact Information

As you plan for your journey with The Nature Conservancy and The Lodge on Little St. Simons Island, please feel free to reach out with any questions at shana@littlessi.com or 888-733-5774.

For more information on what to expect during a stay, please visit the Lodge website at:
www.littlestsimonsisland.com/faq.

TNC TRAVEL VALUES

Access

Travel with renowned Conservancy experts and local partners for an exclusive, on-the-ground experience. You won't just see amazing places; you'll see how you are helping save them.

Impact

Witness how your commitment to our planet and your passion for conservation are making a difference in the wild places and communities you are impacting.

Knowledge

Learn how we are applying the latest cutting-edge science to affect global change and drive conservation.

Inspiration

Immerse yourself in local cultures and awe-inspiring landscapes to foster your own connection to our world.

Globally Minded

Elevate your understanding of our work by observing first-hand how TNC and our partners act locally and how we turn local results in to global impact by scaling solutions that work.

TNC TRAVELER EXPECTATIONS

Group travel with The Nature Conservancy provides our donors with the opportunity to experience, alongside fellow supporters, the places TNC is working collaboratively to advance our conservation mission. Within these curated trips is the chance to engage with a community of active individuals and conservation staff who enjoy teaching and learning about the important conservation work we do and exploring the outdoors.

In order to ensure an enjoyable trip environment that supports learning and enrichment, we need your partnership. We ask that all participants review [TNC's Code of Conduct](#) prior to joining a trip. We also encourage you to carefully review all trip information to make an informed decision as to whether travel with TNC and a specific trip's characteristics and activities are right for you. Following the Code is an expectation and responsibility for everyone in the larger TNC community, including our staff, partners, vendors and supporters. **To that end, when registering for a TNC trip, you are agreeing to uphold the Code.**

While the entire Code of Conduct is important, the tenets that are especially relevant to TNC group travel are: respect for each other, respect for the world around us and acting with integrity. The following traveler expectations are intended to provide guidance for how those tenets translate to group travel but are by no means an exhaustive list. By participating in a TNC trip, you make a commitment to act in accordance with the TNC Code of Conduct to your fellow travelers, as well as to TNC staff, partners, community members and vendors. Any violation of or disregard for the Code of Conduct may result in removal from a trip and/or denial of future TNC travel participation.

1) Respect all people, places and perspectives.

Each participant on a trip is an integral part of the travel experience. Demonstrating respect and consideration is imperative not only for nature, local communities and cultures in the places we visit, but also for fellow travelers, staff, partners, community members and vendors. Everyone will bring different goals, backgrounds, experiences and abilities, and it is important that the group respect each individual's perspectives and needs throughout the trip. Sometimes trip participants become lifelong friends, and we encourage the camaraderie and community built through these shared experiences!

2) Harassment in all its forms, including discrimination and microaggressions, is not tolerated.

There is no place on any TNC travel experience for disrespect to or bullying or intimidation of fellow travelers, TNC staff, partners, community members or vendors. All travelers agree to support an environment free from any behavior that could make an individual feel unsafe or diminish their dignity. If you experience or observe this type of behavior on a trip, please report it to your trip host or guide.

Examples of behavior that will not be tolerated include, but are not limited, to:

- Racial discrimination in any form (jokes, comments and/or actions)
- Verbal abuse of any traveler, staff, partner, community member or vendor
- Actions or statements that exclude or divide people because of their differences or differing perspectives
- Jokes about gender or sexual orientation or that include sexual innuendo
- Discriminatory actions or statements based on gender or sexual orientation
- Unwelcome physical contact or physical intimidation of a sexual nature

3) Act in accordance with the applicable law of the location(s) of the trip.

Your trip location(s) may have different laws from your home location. You are expected to be aware of and adhere to the trip destination's laws throughout the experience, even when locations change throughout a trip.

4) Employ an attitude of flexibility.

At times, there may be changes in the itinerary when deemed necessary or advisable for the comfort and well-being of trip members. We appreciate your understanding, flexibility and adaptability in order to make the trip safe and enjoyable for you and everyone else.

TNC and its tour operators reserve the right to deny registration or remove a tour participant from a trip should such person's behavior, health or mental condition impact the safe and equitable operation of the trip.

Thank you for your attention and understanding, and please let a TNC travel representative know if you have any questions in advance of registering at travel@tnc.org.