



thrive



Presidential Pathways



Located in Georgia's southern rivers district, this 19-county area in west central Georgia is deeply rooted in American history. Visitors today soak up reflections from the antebellum era, Civil War years, proud heritage of two U.S. presidents and birth of the modern South.

www.presidentialpathways.com.

Andersonville marks the site of the Civil War's largest prison, where nearly 13,000 Union soldiers died. Walk solemn grounds and explore the National POW Museum, which tells the story of captivity and honors all American prisoners of war. www.nps.gov/ande



Enjoy loads of naturally entertaining activities at **Callaway Gardens** in Pine Mountain. The Sibley Horticultural Center features the only Mediterranean garden of its kind in the Southeast, an orchid grotto and a tropical garden. Don't miss the daily Birds of Prey show or the Day Butterfly Center. www.callawayonline.com



In the **Columbus Arts and Entertainment District**, entertainment abounds. The RiverCenter presents Broadway shows and concerts, (www.rivercenter.org), or take in a play or musical at the 1871 Springer Opera House (www.springeroperahouse.org). The Columbus Museum features an art collection and gallery depicting the heritage of the Chattahoochee Valley (www.columbusmuseum.com), while the Liberty Theater Cultural Center reflects its history as a venue for legends like Lena Horne, Ella Fitzgerald and Cab Callaway.

The **Global Village & Discovery Center** in Americus shows how Habitat for Humanity is changing the world one house at a time. Life-size replicas of Habitat houses built around the world share the mission of Habitat for Humanity. www.habitat.org

Hills & Dales, in LaGrange, is the 1916 estate of textile magnate Fuller E. Callaway Sr. The gardens surrounding the Italianate-style home were developed in 1841 and include extensive boxwood plantings, fountains, an herb garden and greenhouses. www.hillsanddalesestate.org

The **Jimmy Carter National Historic Site and Boyhood Farm** chronicles the beginnings of Jimmy Carter's legacy in the towns of Plains and Archery, where the foundation of his life is richly visible. www.nps.gov/jica

Franklin D. Roosevelt's **Little White House** in Warm Springs shares Georgia's impact on President Roosevelt. A film narrated by Walter Cronkite recounts FDR's role in America's recovery from the Great Depression, his leadership during World War II and his struggle with polio. www.gastateparks.org/info/littlewhite

At the **National Civil War Naval Museum** in Columbus, stand at the bow of the CSS Jackson, the largest surviving scratch-made ironclad ship in the world. This innovative museum explores Northern and Southern naval operations during the Civil War. www.portcolumbus.org

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The **National Infantry Museum** at Fort Benning houses an amazing collection of artifacts in a 30,000-square-foot exhibit space. Follow the steps of the American infantry soldier across two centuries of courage and determination. www.benningmwr.com/museum.cfm



At the **Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center** in Columbus, learn about natural history while exploring wetlands and wildlife trails. <http://oxbow.colstate.edu>

Along the 68-mile **SAM Shortline** route, glimpse pecan groves, cypress swamps, and scenic country farms from the comfort of antique rail passenger cars. www.samshortline.com

More than 260 species of birds have been identified along the **Southern Rivers Birding Trail**, which offers 30 magnificent sites from the Georgia piedmont to the coastal plain. Bird lists and trail maps are available in Georgia's Visitor Information Centers. www.georgiawildlife.com



West Point Lake provides championship fishing and 500 miles of shoreline offering a full array of recreation and water activities. <http://westpt.sam.usace.army.mil>

The living history town of **Westville** near Lumpkin will take you back to the pioneer heroes of 1850. Taste home-made biscuits, play an 1850s game of baseball and watch as craftsmen demonstrate the work of an earlier era. www.westville.org

"Talk to the animals" at **Wild Animal Safari**. This 500-acre wildlife preserve just outside Pine Mountain brings you face-to-face with endangered and exotic animals from six continents. www.animalsafari.com



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