

**OTHER KEY POINTS OF INTEREST**

- 1 Ft. King George Historic Site (c. 1721)**  
is one of the most visited sites in the state. A museum of local history and authentic replicas of the cypress blockhouse and barracks make this a historical highlight of the tour. The Fort was the first English settlement on the land that is now Georgia. Closed Mondays. 912-437-4770
- 2 Ashantilly**  
Built about 1820 by coastal planter Thomas Spalding, who operated the South's largest cotton plantation on nearby Sapelo Island and revived traditional tabby construction on the Georgia coast. Ashantilly was Spalding's mainland home and was named for Spalding's ancestral landholdings in Scotland.
- 2 St. Andrews Cemetery**
- 3 Sapelo Island**  
is a State Preserve and a private residential community, six miles north on Highway 99 and accessible only by boat. It is home to the unique Gulla culture, steeped in history. The island exhibits virtually every facet of a barrier island's natural community. Sapelo Island Visitors Center, 912-437-3224, is open to the public, but closed Mondays. Reservations are required to visit Sapelo Island.

- 4 Christ Chapel**  
Also known as the Smallest Church in America, Christ Chapel is located approximately 20 miles north of Darien on Highway 17. Measuring 10' x 15', this church seats 12 people and is open to visitors year-round.
- 5 Harris Neck Wildlife Refuge**
- 6 Upper Mill Cemetery (c. 1806)**  
is actually three cemeteries: the City Cemetery, the Black Cemetery and the Presbyterian Cemetery. Those who are buried there made our history. In the cemetery's center is the fenced gravesite of Henry Todd, a "free man of color" who was highly respected in the community. Upon his death, he left money for churches and schools. The adjacent Todd Grant Elementary School honors him and Professor James Grant.
- 7 Butler Island Rice Plantation**

**MCINTOSH COUNTY MAP**



**On the Cover: A few people claim to have seen a mysterious river creature, named the Altamahaha, in the waters around Darien. Keep your eyes open. Perhaps you'll see it too!**

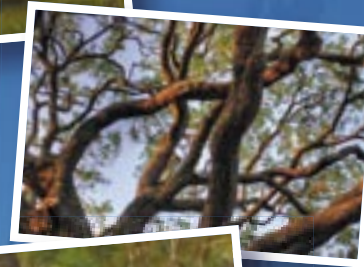


Georgia Dept. of Economic Development

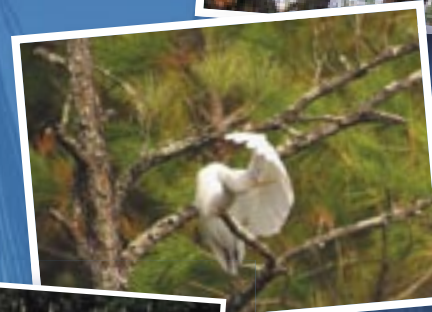
*Welcome to Darien, GA, located on the bluff of the Darien River and the site of historic Fort Darien.*



**Ft. King George Historic Site (c. 1721) was the first English settlement in Georgia.**



**Live Oaks line the streets of downtown Darien.**



**A host of abundant local wildlife populates McIntosh County and the entire coastal area.**



**Modern Scottish Highlanders**



**A local shrimp fleet docks at Darien Harbor.**

**DARIEN**  
 GEORGIA  
 MAP & WALKING TOUR



**The Darien-McIntosh County Chamber of Commerce**  
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# A DAY IN DARIEN - A SELF GUIDED TOUR

The City of Darien was established in 1736 as a military outpost by Scottish Highlanders under the command of General James Oglethorpe, making this historic town the second-oldest planned town in Georgia. All of the sites included in this brochure are marked with corresponding numbered plaques for location purposes.

## Walking Tour

**1 Visitor Center**  
was once located on the high bluff of the Darien River and was the site of Fort Darien. It is now conveniently located at the Preferred Outlets at Darien.

**2 First Presbyterian Church (building c. 1900)**  
was founded by Scottish Highlanders in 1736. This was the first Presbyterian congregation in Georgia.



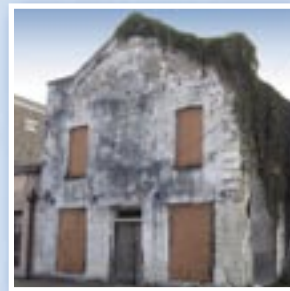
**3 Todd House (c. 1866)**



**4 Palmer House (c. 1860)**



**5 Adam Strain Building (c. 1813-1815)**  
is a stuccoed tabby two-story warehouse that was burned in 1863 and refurbished in 1873. It was used for many years as a mercantile store and ship's chandlery. It is the oldest commercial building in Darien.

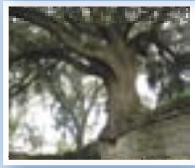


**6 Historic Waterfront**  
Picturesque shrimp boats dock on both sides of the bridge. Commercial shrimping has been a staple of the local community since the 1920s.



### A. Tabby Ruins

show the outline of the original cotton exchange warehouses and naval stores built from 1815 to 1830. During this period, Darien was a leading commercial port for the export of cotton, rice and timber.



### B. Tabby Oak

is a testament to the survival skills of Live Oak trees and to the strength of tabby; this Live Oak (Quercus virginiana) growth in and on the ruins of the tabby walls in Waterfront Park has found a unique place in which to thrive.



### C. Upper Bluff/ Fort Darien

is the site of Fort Darien (c. 1736). Three historical markers here tell of Fort Darien, Fort King George (see map) and the City of Darien. The view to the south is the Altamaha River delta, where rice was once extensively cultivated. The Altamaha River system is designated as one of the "Last Great Places in the World."



**7 The Trailhead Center (c. 1884)**  
was originally built as a firehouse and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1992. This building has also served as an armory, library, community center and, until recently, as the City Hall for more than 70 years.

**8 Old Jail Art Center**  
is the new home of the McIntosh County Art Association and Museum.



**9a The Highlander Monument (c. 1936)**  
For the Scottish Highlanders who founded the City of Darien. McIntosh County is named in honor of the Scots who bravely fought to establish this area.

**9b Oglethorpe Oak**  
Legend tells us that this tree was so large, it once sheltered soldiers under Oglethorpe's command. Decades of decay and lightning strikes toppled the tree in 1969 and only the stump of the tree remains. Another Live Oak has been planted near the spot.

**10 Old City Cemetery (c. 1736-1806)**  
contains within its small fenced area approximately 10 graves of families of Revolutionary War soldiers and Highlander Scots who fought and died here. This marker lists the names of families who founded the city of Darien.



**11 First African Baptist Church (c. 1868)**  
is a replica of the first church built on this site, and was the primary religious center for freed slaves during Reconstruction. Church services are still held here.



**12 Columbus Square (c. 1895)**  
became the site of the depot and terminus of the Darien and Western Railroad, which became the Georgia Coast and Piedmont Railroad.

**13 Grant House (c. 1840)**  
This frame dwelling was the only residence to survive the destruction of the town in 1863 by Union troops. For many years, it was the home of well-known local black educator James Grant. It is still owned by Grant family descendants.



**14 Vernon Square (c. 1806)**  
is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Square follows the concept of early town planning used by James Oglethorpe in Savannah in 1733. It is one of several planned squares in the community. Throughout the 19th century, Vernon Square was the business, cultural, social and religious center of Darien. A number of the surviving historic homes were the residences of the lumber barons and leading merchants during the timber boom.



**St. Andrews Episcopal Church (c. 1836)**

**16 City Hall**  
Built as an armory in the 1870's, it has served as a fire house, police station, community house, and is now City Hall.



**17 St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church**  
was built by former slaves. Made of tabby and restored after suffering severe damage during the hurricane of 1898, this church still has an active congregation. It is open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

