



Ossabaw Island Foundation
www.ossabawisland.org

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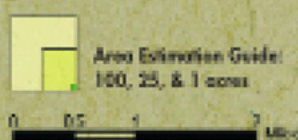


Ossabaw Island

Revealing the Voices and Mystery



Ossabaw Island Heritage Preserve



For Additional Information:
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Ossabaw Island

Georgia's third largest barrier island, on the Atlantic Ocean.

Teeming with wildlife, Ossabaw Island's 26,000 acres of second growth forest and tidal marshland are set aside as Georgia's first Heritage Preserve. Journey twenty minutes by boat from Savannah to an offshore sanctuary, formed 40,000 years ago and shaped over time by the interaction between land and sea.

The Ossabaw Island experience means connecting with place. A place for scientists, educators, researchers, naturalists, artists, writers, musicians, thinkers and students. A natural preserve, an unspoiled ecosystem, a creative studio, a retreat, a muse.

History

For over 4,000 years Ossabaw Island has nurtured and embraced human communities: Native Americans, colonial and ante-bellum plantation owners, African American enslaved and tenant farmers, early 20th century northern families and creative individuals, including artists, educators and scientists.

Archaeological studies, historic preservation, document-based research and oral histories are uncovering layers of stories that reveal the lives of the disparate people living on this island over the centuries.





Science

Ossabaw Island is a living laboratory for monitoring environmental change over time.

A network of monitors allows scientific researchers and educators to collect, evaluate, and transmit real-time data on barrier island ecosystems. Educators and students from university to elementary school levels gather on Ossabaw to teach and learn from each other in a setting where humans lightly tread. <http://ossabaw.skio.usg.edu/>



Culture

Ossabaw Island is a place of inspiration for photographers, essayists, musicians, painters, composers, poets, filmmakers, novelists and creative thinkers. They gather in workshops and collaborative efforts, or retreat from the world for independent time. They listen to the mysteries of Ossabaw and challenge themselves in their disciplines, creating new work and revealing their own voices in ways that resonate with the island's spirit.

"Ossabaw is a powerful place because it gives people time to listen to their ideas." Eleanor "Sandy" West, former owner of Ossabaw Island.





Partnerships



In 1978, the State of Georgia purchased Ossabaw Island and set it aside solely for “natural, scientific and cultural study, research and education.” Ossabaw Island is uniquely protected in Georgia by its status as the first Heritage Preserve, the State’s highest level of land protection.

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, on behalf of the state, is responsible for the environmentally sound preservation, conservation and management of the island’s ecosystem.

The Ossabaw Island Foundation, through a public-private partnership with the State of Georgia, inspires, promotes and manages exceptional educational, cultural, and scientific programs that are designed to maximize the experience of Ossabaw Island, while minimizing the impact on its resources.

The Ossabaw Island Education Alliance is a collaboration between the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and The Ossabaw Island Foundation to encourage and support use of the island by colleges, universities and researchers from across the state and around the world. Learn more: www.usg.edu/ossabaw/

These vital partnerships are models of public/not-for-profit collaboration, assuring that Ossabaw Island will continue to be a valued resource available for present and future generations.

