

Little St. Simons Island, Georgia



A Special Departure for The Nature Conservancy's Legacy Club

Dates: September 27 - October 3, 2009
Estimated Cost: \$1550 for six nights plus tax and gratuity. All
inclusive from Jacksonville, Florida.



Day 1

Sunday, September 27th

Guests fly into Jacksonville, Florida (JAX), arriving in time for 1:30 p.m. airport pickup. Arrive by shuttle to the Hampton River Club marina on the north end of St. Simons Island, about an hour away.

- 3:00 p.m. Departure from Hampton River Club on St. Simons Island. After boarding the *Frederica*, guests will enjoy a 15-minute boat cruise on Mosquito Creek, a tidal river that winds through the Georgia salt marshes. Keep an eye out for dolphins!
- 6:00 p.m. After arriving on Little St. Simons Island and settling into your rooms, get acquainted with your fellow guests and your hosts at a traditional oyster roast. Enjoy succulent Georgia shellfish expertly roasted on an open fire outside the main Lodge at Little St. Simons Island.
- 8:00 p.m. Gather in the Lodge to hear a presentation by Christi Lambert, southeast Georgia conservation director for the Conservancy, and Scott Coleman of Little St. Simons Island. Christi and Scott will explain the partnership between the Conservancy and Little St. Simons Island and how the work on the island is helping to serve a larger conservation goal of protecting the larger South Atlantic Coastal region.

Day 2

Monday, September 28th

- 9:00 a.m. Breakfast at the Lodge.
- 10:15 a.m. Enjoy a hike around the island with a naturalist guide in search of native reptiles and amphibians, including the eastern glass lizard, tree frogs and snakes.
- 1:00 p.m. Lunch at the Lodge.
- 3:00 p.m. Enjoy yourself! Ride a bicycle down to the beach, kayak around the island, try your hand at fishing or go for a relaxing walk along the many trails through the maritime forest.
- 6:00 p.m. Cocktails in the Lodge.
- 7:00 p.m. Dinner in the Lodge.
- 8:30 p.m. Presentation by Mary Conley, marine conservation coordinator for The Nature Conservancy. Learn about The Nature Conservancy's work to protect marine habitats throughout Southern United States.



Day 3

Tuesday, September 29th

- 6:45 a.m. Early risers will enjoy a sunrise walk on the beach led by one of Little St. Simons Island's resident naturalists in search of migrating shorebirds. Perhaps you'll spot a red knot, a long-distance traveler who regularly stops during its migration to enjoy the sandy beaches of Little St. Simons Island.
- 9:00 a.m. Breakfast at the Lodge.
- 10:15 a.m. Board a pontoon boat for a cruise through the Altamaha River sound and then disembark on Sapelo Island, the barrier island just north of Little St. Simons Island. A staff member of the Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve will lead a tour on the island, including the landmark Reynolds Mansion, the lighthouse and the historic Hog Hammock. Sapelo Island is home to the University of Georgia Marine Institute, the Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve and the Richard J. Reynolds Wildlife Management Area. Managed by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the research reserve and the wildlife management area are filled with habitats for you to explore – from the island's hardwood forest to its golden beaches. Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve is a close partner of The Nature Conservancy. We are currently working with them and other partners on a NOAA-funded living shoreline demonstration site on Sapelo Island.
- 1:00 p.m. Enjoy a traditional Southern meal on Sapelo Island.
- 4:00 p.m. Return to the boat and cruise back to Little St. Simons Island.
- 6:00 p.m. Cocktails in the Lodge.
- 7:00 p.m. Dinner in the Lodge.
- 8:30 p.m. Brad Winn, a noted biologist with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, will give a presentation about the significance of Little St. Simons Island and the Altamaha River Sound to migrating and resident shorebirds.

Day 4

Wednesday, September 30th

- 9:00 a.m. Breakfast at the Lodge.
- 10:15 a.m. Enjoy a beach walk with Biologist Brad Winn, a leading expert on shorebirds. Brad will discuss the importance of Little St. Simons Island and the Altamaha River Sound as habitat for migratory shorebirds, including red knots and American oystercatchers. He will also talk about the current program to study the species nesting habits and to band juvenile oystercatchers.
- 1:00 p.m. Lunch at the Lodge.
After lunch, go on a guided walk or take a fishing lesson, go beach combing or relax on the banks of Mosquito Creek under a live oak with a good book from the Lodge's library.
- 6:00 p.m. Board the *Frederica* for a relaxing cocktail cruise just around the island.
- 7:00 p.m. Dinner at the Lodge.



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Day 5

Thursday, October 1st

- 6:45 a.m. Early risers will enjoy a sunrise walk on the beach led by one of Little St. Simons Island's resident naturalists in search of migrating shorebirds. Perhaps you'll spot a red knot, a long-distance traveler who regularly stops during its migration to enjoy the sandy beaches of Little St. Simons Island.
- 9:00 a.m. Breakfast at the Lodge.
- 10:15 a.m. Take a guided botany tour. A naturalist will take you on a fascinating tour of the island's various botanical communities, describing the ecological importance and historical significance of the plants. Did you know that Spanish Moss is neither Spanish in origin or a moss? It's a relative of the pineapple family and was once used by people to stuff mattresses.
- 1:00 p.m. Lunch at the Lodge.
- 2:15 p.m. Take a tour of the natural freshwater ponds around the island which harbor an abundance of alligators and wading birds.
- 6:00 p.m. Shuttle to the main beach for a low country boil, with wild Georgia shrimp
- 8:30 p.m. Stargazing at the beach.



Day 6

Friday, October 2nd

Enjoy a free day today to explore, rest or catch up on your reading! There will be staff naturalists available for participants who want to continue exploring or visit a site they missed during the week.

- 6:00 p.m. Cocktails at the Lodge.
- 7:00 p.m. Farewell dinner at the Lodge.
- 8:30 p.m. A special reading by famed naturalist author Janisse Ray. She wrote "Ecology of a Cracker Childhood."

Day 7

Saturday, October 3rd

- 10:00 a.m. Say goodbye to Little St. Simons Island today with a boat ride back to Hampton River Club, continuing on to Jacksonville Airport for your flights home. *Please book your flights departing Jacksonville after 1:00 p.m.*