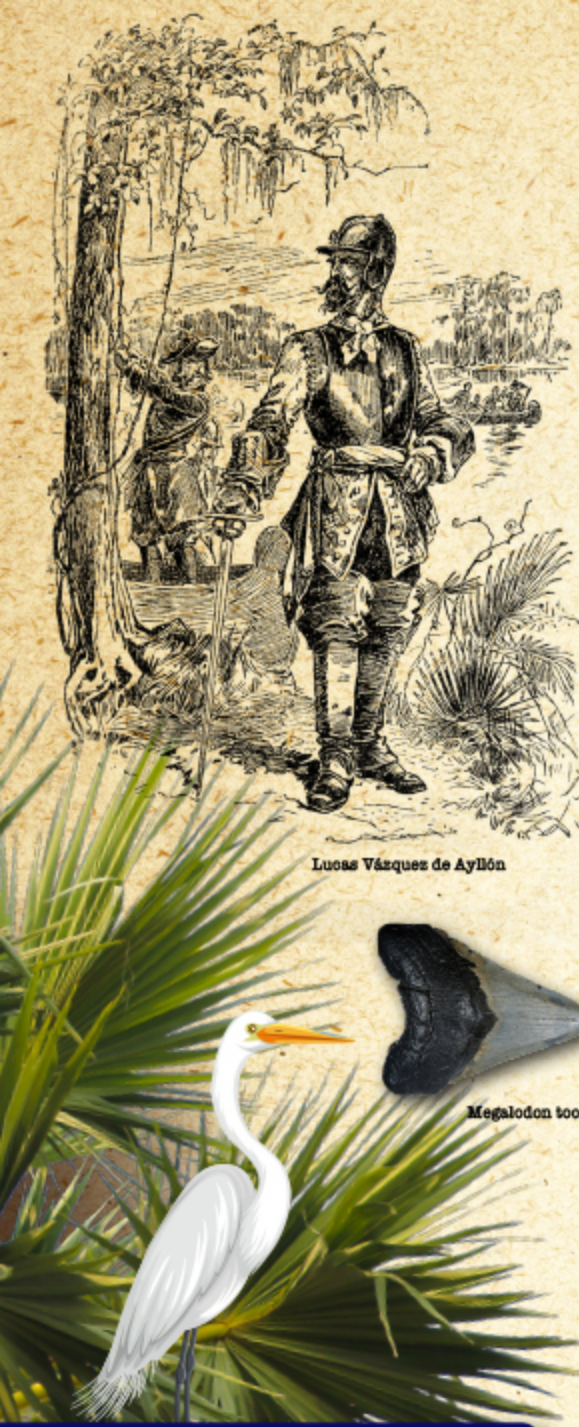




Lucas Vázquez de Ayllón



10,000 BC - 1729

Evidence suggests that the earliest residents of what is now Georgetown County — including the Wee Nee, Pee Dee, Waccamaw, Winyah, and Santee Native American tribes — lived in this region more than 10,000 years ago. The first recorded European contact occurred on June 24, 1521, when Spanish explorers Pedro de Quexós and Francisco Gordillo arrived along the coast. In 1526, Spanish explorer Lucas Vázquez de Ayllón brought approximately 600 colonists in an attempt to establish a settlement near Winyah Bay; however, the colony survived less than a year before disease and starvation forced its abandonment. In 1670, English settlers established Clarendon Province under a charter granted by King Charles II as part of the Kingdom of Great Britain, laying the foundation for what would become South Carolina. Founded in 1729, Georgetown is the third-oldest city in the state and was designated an official port of entry in 1732. Situated on Winyah Bay — a 19,000-acre biodiverse estuary and the third largest on the eastern coast of the United States — Georgetown lies where the Black, Great Pee Dee, Little Pee Dee, Waccamaw, and Sampit rivers meet.



Indigo

1729 - 1774

In 1729, Georgetown's founder, Elisha Screven, designed the town in a distinctive four-by-eight block grid, shaping a community built for trade and connection. Positioned along the waterways of Winyah Bay, Georgetown quickly grew into a thriving colonial port where planters, merchants, and ship captains exchanged goods bound for England, the Caribbean, and neighboring colonies. By 1732, thousands of barrels of rice were leaving its docks, while indigo — encouraged by British bounties and land grants — became a prized crop, producing rich blue dyes sought after across Europe. The region's forests and rivers fueled a bustling export economy that included lumber, tar, pitch, tobacco, and naval stores used in shipbuilding. Pine beams, cypress shingles, and live-oak framing timbers left Georgetown's mills in great quantities, helping build ships and cities along the eastern seaboard. With prosperity came danger, as the valuable cargo moving through Winyah Bay attracted notorious pirates such as Blackbeard, Caesar, Anne Bonny, Mary Read, Calico Jack Rackham, and Stede Bonnet. For a time, the black flag of the "Jolly Roger" was a familiar sight along the Carolina coast.



Hopewee Plantation



Thomas Lynch Jr.



King George III



1774 - 1791

Georgetown stood at the heart of the American Revolution. In December 1774, local patriots staged their own Tea Party, signaling a growing spirit of independence that would send Thomas Lynch Sr. and Thomas Lynch Jr. — a future signer of the Declaration of Independence — to the Continental Congress. On June 13, 1777, the young French nobleman Marquis de Lafayette came ashore just south of Georgetown to join the fight for liberty, marking the beginning of a new chapter in America's struggle for freedom. South Carolina would see more Revolutionary War battles and skirmishes than any other colony, with more than 400 engagements shaping its swamps, rivers, and plantations. General Francis Marion — the legendary "Swamp Fox" — led daring actions at places like Black Mingo Creek and Tearcoat Swamp, and Georgetown itself endured repeated attacks. The British retreated from the town on May 27, 1781, but the war left deep scars. That summer, British forces bombarded the waterfront and set fire to stores, warehouses, and dozens of homes, forever altering the young port city. In the war's aftermath, Governor John Rutledge moved to halt cycles of retaliation, while Francis Marion rose to brigadier general, helping guide South Carolina through the closing chapters of the Revolution.



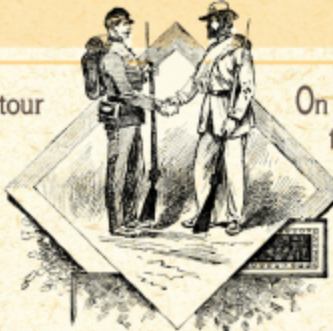
Gen. Marquis de Lafayette



Gen. George Washington

1791 - 1820

During President George Washington's tour of the Southern states in April 1791, he spent several days traveling throughout Georgetown County. His visit included dinner at the home of Percival Pawley and lodging with Revolutionary War surgeon Dr. Henry Collins Flagg at Brookgreen Plantation, followed by a stop at William Allston's plantation, where he was welcomed by several prominent South Carolinians. Crossing the Waccamaw River into Georgetown, President Washington was received under a cannon salute at historic Federal Wharf on Vinegar Hill, a bluff overlooking the Sampit River near present-day Front Street, where he expressed gratitude to residents for their loyalty and sacrifice. He was hosted overnight by Daniel Tucker at what is now known as the Robert Stewart House, attended a public dinner, took tea with more than 50 local ladies, delivered remarks at the Winyah Indigo Society, and received a formal welcome at Masonic Lodge No. 16. Washington's Georgetown visit concluded with a brunch hosted by Eliza Lucas Pinckney and her daughter, Harriot Horry, at Hampton Plantation before he continued on to Charleston as part of his Southern tour.



Union & Confederate Soldiers



Rice Trunk

1820 - 1910

On sprawling plantations carved from the tidal landscape, the labor and agricultural expertise of enslaved people, rooted in West African rice traditions, transformed Georgetown County into one of the most prosperous rice-producing regions of its time. Rice production exceeding 100 million pounds annually elevated South Carolina to one of the most prosperous economies of its time, and fortunes were reflected in plantations known for their world-class equine traditions and grand homes adorned with fine furniture, imported linens, silver, crystal, china, artwork, and fashions from around the world. The Civil War and its aftermath brought sweeping transformation to Georgetown and the entire Lowcountry. Emancipation reshaped daily life, and during Reconstruction the region emerged as a place of new political voices and changing opportunity. Georgetown native Joseph Hayne Rainey rose to national prominence as the first African American elected to the United States House of Representatives, symbolizing a new era of leadership and civic participation. As railroads expanded inland and rice cultivation declined, the community adapted to shifting economic realities. By the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Georgetown began redefining itself through lumber, steel, and paper production, entering an industrial age that would shape the city's identity for generations while the legacy of its rice-field past remained etched across the landscape.



Joseph Hayne Rainey



Clock Tower

Here on the Hammock Coast, time seems to slow. Walk wide, white-sand beaches, paddle through cypress-lined blackwater creeks, or watch bald eagles soar above tidal marshes alive with birdsong. As evening falls, the rustle of palms, the scent of gardenia and magnolia, and the rhythm of the Atlantic invite you to linger — to experience a place where history, nature, and quiet coastal beauty come together.



Gullah Geechee

1910 - Today

Through fire, war, and change, historic Georgetown endured — preserving dozens of nationally significant landmarks that continue to tell the story of its past. As the rice era faded, some plantations adapted by shifting to new crops, while others evolved into renowned golf courses that now define parts of the coastal landscape. Along the Atlantic Coast Flyway, abandoned rice fields, winding canals, and quiet waterways drew land stewards, conservationists, presidents, and industrialists who transformed former plantations into nature preserves and hunting estates, safeguarding thousands of acres of wild Lowcountry terrain. Today, Georgetown County's heritage lives on through its historic sites, cultural traditions, and extraordinary natural beauty. Rivers, maritime forests, and miles of pristine shoreline — including Pawleys Island, often called America's oldest seaside resort — create a setting where outdoor adventure and coastal relaxation meet. Visitors find world-class opportunities for fishing, paddling, birdwatching, biking, hiking, and eco-tours across vast landscapes shaped by centuries of history. In 2010, the region embraced the name South Carolina's Hammock Coast®, reflecting both its unhurried coastal spirit and the legacy of nineteenth-century boat captain Joshua John Ward, whose handcrafted Pawleys Island rope hammock became an enduring symbol of Lowcountry comfort — still woven today by local artisans and enjoyed around the world.



Gen. Francis Marion

“THEY FELL, BUT O’ER THEIR GLORIOUS GRAVE FLOATS FREE THE BANNER OF THE CAUSE THEY DIED TO SAVE.”

—Francis Marion



Photo credits: Julian Stevenson Bolick and Alan Sherlock

Georgetown County Library, U.S.A.C.E. Charleston, SC

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SOUTH CAROLINA'S
HAMMOCK COAST
PAWLEYS ISLAND | MURRELLS INLET | LITCHFIELD BEACH
GARDEN CITY | GEORGETOWN | ANDREWS

DISCOVER
GEORGETOWN COUNTY

GEORGETOWN COUNTY

SOUTH CAROLINA

“THE GEM OF THE ATLANTIC SEABOARD”

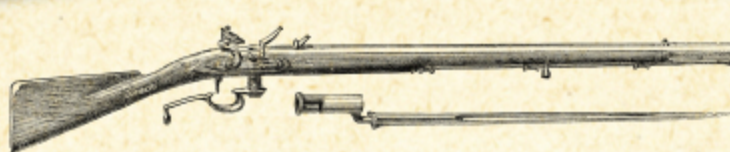
georgetown
COUNTY CHAMBER

Visitor Centers:
531 Front St., Georgetown and
28 Wall St., Pawleys Island

843-546-8436
hammockcoastsc.com
vacation@hammockcoastsc.com
visitgeorge.com



YOU HAVE PLACES TO GO & PEOPLE TO MEET
...SOME THOUSANDS OF YEARS OLD



- *LOCATION IN MULTIPLE CATEGORIES**

Nature & Outdoor Adventures

 - 1. Back Woods Quail Club (D4)
 - 2. Black Mingo Swamp (D3)
 - 3. Black River Cypress Preserve (C5)
 - 4. Black River State Park (coming soon) (B5)
 - *5. Brookgreen Gardens (I4)
 - *6. Georgetown Outdoor Adventure Trails (GOAT) (F6)
 - *7. Hobcaw Barony (G7)
 - *8. Huntington Beach State Park (I4)
 - 9. Intracoastal Waterway (G8)
 - 10. North Santee Bar Seabird Sanctuary (G10)
 - 11. Rocky Point Community Forest (E4)
 - 12. Samworth Wildlife Management Area (H5)
 - 13. Santee Delta Wildlife Management Area (E9)
 - 14. Santee River Waterways (D9)
 - 15. Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center (G9)
 - 16. Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge (H2)
 - 17. Waccamaw Neck Bikeway (I4)
 - 18. Wadmacon Creek (C8)
 - 19. Wee Tee State Forest (A7)
 - 20. Winyah Bay/Waccamaw River (G8)
 - 21. Winyah Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (H7)
 - 22. Tour de Plantersville (Annual Cycling Event) (G5)

Cultural Visitor Experiences

 - 23. Battery White (F7)
 - *5. Brookgreen Gardens (I4)
 - 24. Francis Marion Skirmish at Black Mingo Creek (D3)
 - 25. Georgetown Lighthouse (H9)
 - 26. Historic Andrews (C6)
 - *7. Hobcaw Barony (G7)
 - *27. Hopsewee Plantation (E9)
- Plantations**

 - 34. Belle Isle (F7)
 - 35. Dirleton Plantation (G5)
 - 36. Hasty Point Plantation (H4)
 - *7. Hobcaw Barony (G7)
 - *27. Hopsewee Plantation (E9)

Historic Sites

 - 37. Francis Marion Park (Inset)
 - 38. Georgetown County Courthouse (Inset)
 - 39. Georgetown County Library (Inset)
 - 40. Old Colonial Banking House & Historic Masonic Lodge (Inset)
 - 41. James A. Bowley House (private) (Inset)
 - 42. John & Mary Perry Cleland House (private) (Inset)
 - 43. Jonathan A. Baxter House (private) (Inset)
 - 44. Joseph H. Rainey House (private) (Inset)
 - *45. Kaminski House Museum (Inset)
 - *46. South Carolina Maritime Museum (Inset)
 - 47. Georgetown County Veterans Memorial (Inset)
 - *48. Rice Museum (Inset)
 - 49. West End Heritage Center (Inset)
 - 50. William Doyle Morgan House (private) (Inset)
 - 51. Winyah Indigo Society Hall (Inset)
 - 52. Joseph Rainey Park (Inset)
- Tours**

 - 53. Crazy Sister Fishing & Cruises (J4)
 - 54. Elizabeth Huntsinger "Ghosts of Georgetown" (Inset)
 - 54A. Express Watersports (I4)
 - 55. Fish Finder Fishing Charters (I4)
 - *6. Georgetown Outdoor Adventure Trails (GOAT) (F6)
 - 56. Georgetown Historic District (F7)
 - 57. Cap'n Rod's Lowcountry Boat Tours (Inset)
 - 57A. Plantation River Tours & Airboat Rides (I4)
 - 58. Prince George Winyah Historic Plantation & Homes (annual) (Inset)
 - 58A. Storehouse Tours (H6)
 - 59. Swamp Fox Tours (Inset)
 - 60. Visit Murrells Inlet Boat Tours (J3)

Churches & Cemeteries

 - 61. All Saints Episcopal Church & Cemetery (H5)
 - 62. Antipede Baptist Church & Cemetery (Inset)
 - 63. Belin Memorial United Methodist Church (J4)
 - 64. Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church (Inset)
 - 65. Beth Elohim Cemetery (Inset)
 - 66. Bethesda Missionary Baptist (Inset)
 - 67. Cedar Grove Plantation Chapel (H5)
 - 68. Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church (Inset)
 - *7. Hobcaw Barony - Friendfield Village Slave Church (G7)
 - 69. Holy Cross Faith Memorial Church (I5)
 - 70. Mt. Olive Baptist Church (E4)
 - 71. Murrells Inlet Presbyterian Church (J4)
 - 72. Pawleys Island Chapel (I6)
 - *32. Prince Frederick's Summer Chapel (G4)
 - 73. Prince George Winyah Parish Church (Inset)
 - 74. Screven Family Cemetery (Inset)
 - 75. St. Mary Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Church (Inset)
 - 76. Temple Beth Elohim (Inset)
- The Arts & Museums**

 - 77. Art Harbor Gallery (Inset)
 - *5. Brookgreen Gardens (I4)
 - 78. Georgetown Art Gallery (Inset)
 - 79. Georgetown County Museum (Inset)
 - 80. Gray Man Gallery (H5)
 - 81. The Gullah Museum (Inset)
 - *45. Kaminski House Museum (Inset)
 - *46. South Carolina Maritime Museum (Inset)
 - 82. Pawleys Island Old Town Hall (I6)
 - 83. Strand Theatre (Inset)
 - 84. Waccamaw Neck Art Alliance (I6)
 - 85. Winyah Auditorium (Inset)
 - *48. Rice Museum (Inset)

Beaches

 - 86. Debordieu Colony Beach (residents/renters) (H6)
 - 87. Garden City Beach (J3)
 - *8. Huntington Beach State Park (I4)
 - 88. Litchfield Beach (I5)
 - 89. Pawleys Island (I6)

Location Information

Georgetown Historical Markers

Georgetown County Historic Cemeteries

Georgetown County Historic Plantations
(not all open to public)

Walking Tour App Hammock Coast

Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce

Hammock Coast Golf Trail

Waccamaw Neck Bikeway

