



GEORGIA'S AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE

Discover a state deeply rooted in African American heritage, culture and history. Georgia is where many battles for equal rights began in America. From the early coastal slave settlements to the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, threads of Georgia's vibrant heritage are woven throughout the state into a tapestry of arts and music, dynamic leaders, enduring icons and rich spirit.

Georgia is where you can experience [Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s](#) dream of equality, peace and prosperity for all, a dream that earned him the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize. [The Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site](#) commemorates the area of Atlanta where Dr. King was born and raised. Tour Dr. King's historic birth home and visit the famed [Ebenezer Baptist Church](#), where Dr. King was baptized and later served as co-pastor. Known as the "Sweet Auburn" district, this neighborhood was the center of the city's black community prior to desegregation and served as a focal point in the Civil Rights Movement.

Established in 1773, the [First African Baptist Church](#) in Savannah is the oldest independent black church in North America. Visit the current structure, erected in 1859 with stained glass windows of African American figures, and discover the beauty and history of this landmark. [Savannah](#), known for its cotton warehouses and elegant architecture, remains a place where wide streets and lush green squares invite you to walk through the nation's largest registered Urban Historic Landmark District.

Uncover Harriet Tubman's remarkable story at the [Tubman African American Museum](#) in Macon, the largest African American museum in the state. Visit the [Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History](#) in Augusta, which utilizes art and history to present the life and legacy of Lucy Craft Laney, a Georgia educator.

In southwest Georgia, visit the [Albany Civil Rights Movement Museum](#), located in the historic Freedom District of Downtown. The museum chronicles Albany and its role in the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. Be sure to take in the Thomasville Black Heritage Trail Tour. This venue honors Lt. Henry Ossian Flipper, a [Thomasville](#) native who, in 1877, became the first African American to graduate from the United States Military Academy at West Point.

OTHER AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE SITES AROUND GEORGIA

EMERY CENTER

Dalton - The site of Dalton's first public school building, this was built in 1886 to address the educational needs of African American children between the ages of seven and sixteen. daltoncvb.com/africanamericans.html

NOBLE HILL-WHEELER MEMORIAL CENTER
Cartersville - Built in 1923, this was the first school in northwest GA specifically dedicated to the education of African American children. noblehillwheeler.com

THE ATLANTA HISTORY CENTER

Atlanta - Explore the Tullie Smith Farm featuring a restored 1840s Yoeman Farm with outbuildings, a cabin and slave garden exploring the African American experience in 19th Century Northern Georgia. atlantahistorycenter.com

UNDERGROUND ATLANTA

Atlanta - "From Civil War to Civil Rights:" This guided walking tour lasts approximately 45 minutes. A historian will lead your group of 11 different historical sites, noting facts and interesting tidbits on the history of Underground and the city of Atlanta. underground-atlanta.com

HOT CORNER

Athens - The corner of Washington and Hull Streets in Athens was an early center of black commerce, including the dental offices of Ida May Hiram, the first African American woman to pass the Georgia Dental Board exams. Also here is the The Morton Theatre, one of the oldest surviving vaudeville theatres built, owned and operated by African American Monroe Bowers "Pink" Morton. The theatre hosted such notables as Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway, Bessie Smith and Louis Armstrong. Morton was laid to rest at Gospel Pilgrim Cemetery which can be found on the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places. visitathensga.com



MORGAN COUNTY AFRICAN-AMERICAN MUSEUM

Madison - An institution dedicated to preserving African American heritage and promoting awareness of the contributions of African Americans to the culture of the south. mcaam.org

LUCY CRAFT LANEY MUSEUM OF BLACK HISTORY

Augusta - The Lucy Craft Laney Museum is the only African-American Museum in the Central Savannah River Area. The museum, which opened in 1991, is a small house museum that was the former home of Miss Lucy Craft Laney. Ms. Lucy Craft has gone down in history as one of the state of Georgia's most influential educational leaders.

lucycraftlaneymuseum.com

SPRINGFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH AND PARK

Augusta - The oldest African American Baptist Church in the nation with continuous service, it is also the founding home of Morehouse College. 706.724.1056



MUSEUM OF AVIATION

Warner Robbins - Featuring an Air Force 50th Anniversary exhibit, "America's Black Eagles - the Tuskegee Pioneers...and Beyond," built to recognize the Tuskegee Airmen of WWII and the achievements of black Americans in aviation. museumofaviation.org



COLUMBUS BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM

Columbus - Offering multimedia, authentic historical items, displays, documents and photos. Lectures and tours available.

columbusblackhistory.com

HORACE KING, MASTER BRIDGE BUILDER AND ARCHITECT

LaGrange - Former slave who built covered bridges and other structures in Georgia and Alabama is buried in LaGrange. The Troup County Archives contain much information about him and his family. Also, visit the Horace King historic marker on King Street.

trouparchives.org

RAY CHARLES STATUE

Albany - A revolving, lighted bronze statue of Ray Charles sits in the middle of the downtown plaza. Charles was born in Albany in 1930 and his version of "Georgia On My Mind" was made the official state song in 1979.

albanyga.com

JACK HADLEY BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM

Thomasville - James "Jack" Hadley was an avid collector and curator of Black History Memorabilia. His collection traces Black American history from pre-slavery to the present.

jackhadleyblackhistorymuseum.com

OKEFENOKEE HERITAGE CENTER "FROM THESE ROOTS"

Waycross - A black heritage exhibition focusing on the contributions African Americans made to this community.

okefenokeeheritagecenter.org

SEABROOK VILLAGE

Midway - An African American turn-of-the-century community and Dorchester Academy National Historic Place, Seabrook Village was founded after the Civil War as a school for freed slaves.

seabrookvillage.org

HOG HAMMOCK COMMUNITY ON SAPELO ISLAND

Sapelo Island - This community is the last intact Geechee/Gullah community in the Sea Islands of Georgia and comprises direct descendants of slaves brought to Sapelo Island in 1802.

gastateparks.org/info/sapelo

RALPH MARK GILBERT CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM

Savannah - Take the time to walk back into the era of segregation in Savannah. This museum chronicles the civil rights struggle of Georgia's oldest African American community from slavery to present.

savcivilrights.com

THE KING - TISDELL COTTAGE

Savannah - This cottage is an African American heritage museum named for its African American owners, Eugene and Sarah King and Robert Tisdell. This museum of African-American Savannah and the Sea Islands is owned and operated by the King-Tisdell Cottage Foundation, which also owns and operates the Negro Heritage Trail Tours and the Beach Institute on the corner of Price and Harris Streets.

kingtisdell.org



FAMOUS GEORGIANS

As you continue to educate yourself on Georgia's historic past, you'll learn many prominent African Americans hail from Georgia, including Jackie Robinson, Andrew Young, Harriet Tubman, James Brown and many more. Like Georgia, they represent a spirit and desire to overcome adversity and achieve the highest level of success.

ARTS & CULTURE

From Atlanta to Savannah and from Athens to Columbus, a variety of places and events tell the African American story in the Peach State. See magnificent theaters and museums, unique galleries and experience the rich musical history in Georgia's thriving arts & cultural scene. Scenic back roads tie visitors to Georgia's past, guiding them through colorful countryside and picturesque main streets. The National Black Arts Festival in Atlanta, Sapelo Island Cultural Day, Sea Islands Black Heritage Festival, Black Heritage Festival of Southwest Georgia in Thomasville and the Gathering at Geechee Kunda in Riceboro are just a sampling of annual events across the state.

GULLAH/GEECHEE CULTURE

In 2006, Congress designated the barrier islands and costal regions along the Atlantic Ocean as the Gullah/Geechee Heritage Corridor. The corridor spans the coast through four states: North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. Sapelo Island, one of Georgia's barrier islands, is home to the Hog Hammock Gullah /Geechee community. Only accessible by ferry, this Gullah/Geechee community descends from slaves brought to the island in 1802. The ruins of Chocolate Plantation, founded in the early 1800s, still stand on Sapelo Island today.