



Foundation Document Overview

Cumberland Island National Seashore

Georgia



Contact Information

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Purpose



CUMBERLAND ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE maintains the primitive, undeveloped character of one of the largest and most ecologically diverse barrier islands on the Atlantic coast, while preserving scenic, scientific, and historical values and providing outstanding opportunities for outdoor recreation and solitude.

Significance

Significance statements express why Cumberland Island National Seashore resources and values are important enough to merit national park unit designation. Statements of significance describe why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. These statements are linked to the purpose of the park unit, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Significance statements describe the distinctive nature of the park and inform management decisions, focusing efforts on preserving and protecting the most important resources and values of the park unit.

- Cumberland Island National Seashore is one of the Atlantic Coast's most ecologically diverse barrier islands, where local variations in environmental conditions create extensive and unique communities across the island; from the beach and dune system on the east, through the interdune, freshwater wetland, and upland forest habitats in the interior, to the salt marsh on the west.
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- Cumberland Island National Seashore contains a rich concentration of cultural resources that recount 4,000 years of human habitation and include a remarkable diversity of ethnic and social backgrounds. These pieces of the past—archeological features, landscapes, architecture, artifact collections, people—cast a compelling backdrop to the island that draws visitors into the stories of this remote place.
 - With almost 18 miles of pristine beach and one of the largest oak maritime forests remaining in the United States, Cumberland Island provides an unparalleled visitor experience.
 - Cumberland Island National Seashore protects the largest designated wilderness area on an East Coast barrier island.
 - Cumberland Island National Seashore's physical isolation provides visitors opportunities to experience outdoor recreation in an uncrowded, undeveloped setting. Moreover, this isolation helps to preserve and protect the island's fragile natural and cultural resources.

Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to merit primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance.

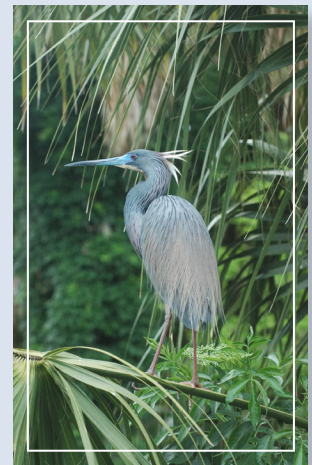
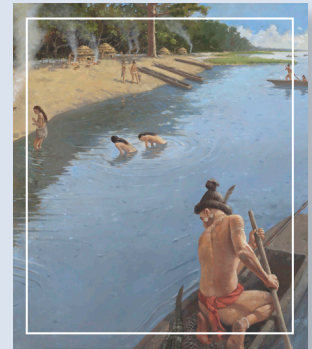
- **National register archeological districts and other significant archeological resources.**
- **National register historic districts and their contributing features.**
- **Intact barrier island system driven by coastal geological and biological processes.**
- **Live oak maritime forests.**
- **Pristine beach (scenic).**
- **Wilderness.**
- **Primitive and undeveloped character.**
- **An uncrowded setting that provides opportunities for both passive and active outdoor recreation.**



Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are often described as the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting a park— they define the most important ideas or concepts communicated to visitors about a park unit. Themes are derived from — and should reflect — park purpose, significance, resources, and values. The set of interpretive themes is complete when it provides the structure necessary for park staff to develop opportunities for visitors to explore and relate to all of the park significances and fundamental resources and values.

- For 4,000 years, Cumberland Island's landscapes and resources have attracted varied human groups, each of whom have shaped and influenced the island in different ways, leaving behind a complex array of historical and cultural legacies.
- Being an island of contrast that is both accessible and remote, and wild and manipulated; the seashore is one of the largest remaining intact barrier ecosystems on the east coast supporting a variety of fragile yet vibrant plant and animal communities that are always under siege from outside forces.
- Cumberland Island is a modern-day sanctuary for those seeking solitude, reflection, recreation, and inspiration.
- Since designation in 1972, the National Park Service has provided a vision for Cumberland Island National Seashore to preserve resources and serve the public while struggling to balance desires of various interest groups.



This map of Cumberland Island National Seashore provides a detailed overview of the island's geography, trails, and historical sites. The island is situated in the Apalachicola River, which flows into St. Andrew Sound and the Atlantic Ocean. Key geographical features include the Satilla River, Crooked River, and various ponds and lakes such as Ashby Pond, Johnson's Pond, and Lake Rattle. The map highlights several trails, including the Main Trail, King's Bottom Trail, and the Ashby Pond Trail. Notable landmarks and historical sites are marked, such as the First African Baptist Church, the Settlement, the Ice House Museum, and the Sea Camp Ranger Station. The map also shows the island's boundaries, including the Wilderness Area and the Seashore Boundary. A legend in the top left corner defines symbols for trails, beaches, forests, and other features. A scale bar and a north arrow are located in the bottom right corner.

Legend:

- Trail
- Beach and dunes
- Maritime forest
- Salt marsh
- Private/Retained rights property
- Wilderness area boundary
- Restrooms
- Campground
- Primitive campsite
- Potable water
- Non-potable water
- Dune crossing marker

Notes:

- All roads on Cumberland Island are unpaved.
- Bicycles are permitted only on Main Road, North Cut Road, and the road to Plum Orchard.
- Some trails are unmarked. Do not use this map for hiking.
- There are no lifeguards; swim at your own risk.

Map Labels:

- ST ANDREW SOUND
- SATILLA RIVER
- CROOKED RIVER
- CROOKED RIVER STATE PARK
- KINGS BAY NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE
- ST MARYS
- Mainland Museum
- Cumberland Island National Seashore Visitor Center
- ST MARYS RIVER
- Passenger Ferry
- Sea Camp Beach
- Sea Camp Ranger Station
- Ice House Museum
- Dungeness Ruins
- Cemetery
- Pelican Banks
- Jetty
- GEORGIA
- FLORIDA
- FORT CLINCH STATE PARK
- AMELIA ISLAND
- ATLANTIC OCEAN
- Cumberland Island National Seashore Boundary
- Wilderness Area Boundary
- Whitney Lake
- North Cut Road
- High Point (road through High Point is through North Cut Road)
- Halfmoon Bluff
- The Settlement
- First African Baptist Church
- Burbank Point
- Cumberland Wharf Ruins
- Terrapin Point
- Brickhill Bluff
- Table Point
- King's Bottom Trail
- Ashby Pond
- Johnson's Pond
- Yankee Paradise
- Hickory Hill
- Willow Pond
- Willow Pond Trail
- Stafford
- Stafford Beach
- Stafford Cemetery
- Old House Road
- Little Greyfield Beach
- Greyfield
- Drum Point Island
- North River
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- Brickhill River
- Plum Orchard
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Cumberland Island's historic and prehistoric sites reflect its 4,000 years of human habitation that include American Indian life, Spanish missions, colonial fortresses, agricultural plantations, military occupation, enslaved Africans, vacation retreats, African American communities, remote lifestyles, maritime endeavors, and grand estates. The national seashore has four historic districts and two archeological districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places. They are significant with respect to archeology, architecture, community planning, agriculture, landscape architecture, leisure/resorts, religion, and/or social/humanitarian history.