

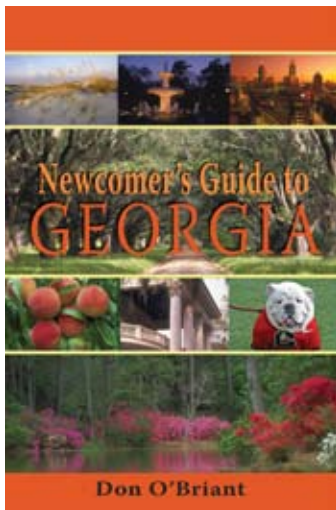


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What Georgia Newcomers May Not Know

You might think you know Georgia, but do you know why no beavers live in Okefenokee Swamp? According to Seminole legend, humans and beavers fought for possession of the land, and the beavers lost. The beavers destroyed their dams, flooding the land and creating the swamp, and then left. Do you know why General Sherman didn't burn Savannah during the Civil War? The general felt that Savannah was too beautiful to be destroyed. You might also be surprised to learn that the Appalachian dialect has its roots in Elizabethan England and that Georgia has had five different capitals.



If you think Georgia has nothing more to offer than peaches and the Atlanta airport, you don't know Georgia. Georgia is actually third to South Carolina and California in its number of peach orchards and has a great deal more to offer visitors and residents than one of the country's busiest airports. Georgia is the world's biggest producer of carpet, kaolin, chickens, and watermelons, the state where Coca-Cola was

created, and the only place where Vidalia onions are grown. Georgia is home to mountains, valleys, and ocean coast. The state has enough wildlife to keep even the most avid bird watchers and fishermen happy and recreational opportunities from hiking to rafting to golf. Arguably the birthplace of the blues, Georgia offers a diverse music scene that has produced Ray Charles, Little Richard, James Brown, R.E.M., the B-52s, Otis Redding, and Usher, among many others. Many literary greats, such as Flannery O'Connor, Margaret Mitchell, Carson McCullers, and Joel Chandler Harris, have called Georgia home.

Georgia's magnificence is hardly a secret. Thirty percent of Georgia's residents are transplants from other states

and countries, and Georgia ranks seventh on the list of most-visited states. With all that Georgia has to offer, it's no wonder that anyone from anywhere would feel at home there. Georgia has a Bavarian village in Helen that hosts an annual Oktoberfest; a winery and resort built to look like a 16th-century French chateau; the largest group of kangaroos to be found anywhere other than Australia; the "world's largest single-screen outdoor movie theater and drive-in" in Trenton; the "fruitcake capital of the world," Claxton; and the "most haunted city in the country," Savannah.

In *Newcomer's Guide to Georgia*, Don O'Briant offers a wealth of information about the state. An indispensable resource for new residents, the book explains Georgia's government, tax system, school system, DMV policies, and much more. If you want to know the state bird or state amphibian or even learn the Georgian creed, you'll find it in *Newcomer's Guide to Georgia*. At the end of each chapter, O'Briant offers a list of books, websites, and other resources where you can find more information. More than just a guidebook, *Newcomer's Guide to Georgia* is a tribute to a great state and could provide even long-time residents with new facts about their home.

Don O'Briant is a former book editor and reporter for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Among his seven books are *Looking for Tara: the GWTW Guide to Atlanta*; *Travel Smart: Georgia*; and *Backroad Buffets and Country Cafes: A Southern Guide to Meat- and- Threes & Downhome Cooking*. He lives in Lilburn, Georgia.

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