

# Discover Hidden Gems: Explore Georgia's American Auto Trail Highway 17



## American Auto Trail-Georgia's U.S. Highway 17

(American Auto Trails) by Lyn Wilkerson

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Prepare to embark on a captivating journey through the heart of Georgia, where history, nature, and local culture intertwine to create an unforgettable experience. The American Auto Trail Highway 17 winds its way through the state, offering travelers a front-row seat to Georgia's hidden gems and untold stories.

### **Savannah: A City Steeped in History**

Your adventure begins in the vibrant city of Savannah, where Spanish moss hangs gracefully from ancient oak trees and cobblestone streets whisper tales of bygone eras. Explore the historic district, where antebellum mansions and charming squares transport you to another time. Marvel at the grandeur of Forsyth Park and uncover the captivating stories of Savannah's past at the Georgia Historical Society.



## **Darien: A Gateway to the Golden Isles**

Journey south to Darien, a quaint town nestled amidst the beauty of the Altamaha River. Step aboard the Darien Ferry and cross over to the enchanting Golden Isles, where pristine beaches, lush marshes, and abundant wildlife await. Embark on a kayaking adventure through the

serene waterways of the Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve, and immerse yourself in the vibrant ecosystem that thrives here.



Embark on a scenic journey as you cross the Altamaha River on the Darien Ferry.

### **Brunswick: Maritime Heritage and Southern Charm**

Continue your journey to Brunswick, a historic port city brimming with maritime charm. Visit the Brunswick Old Town Historic District, where Victorian architecture and cozy cafes line the streets. Explore the Georgia Sea Turtle Center, where you can learn about these magnificent creatures and witness their rehabilitation efforts.



## **Jekyll Island: A Coastal Paradise**

Just off the coast of Brunswick lies Jekyll Island, a pristine barrier island renowned for its natural beauty and rich history. Stroll along the pristine beaches, surrounded by towering sand dunes and the soothing sound of crashing waves. Delve into the island's past at the Jekyll Island Club Hotel, a grand Victorian resort that once hosted some of America's wealthiest families.



Escape to the tranquility of Jekyll Island, where nature's beauty reigns supreme.

### **St. Marys: A Colonial Gem**

As you head north, make a stop in the charming town of St. Marys, where Spanish influence and colonial history intertwine. Explore the Spanish Mission San Jose de Zupala, one of the oldest mission outposts in Georgia. Visit the Orange Hall Historic House Museum to uncover the stories of early settlers and the pivotal role St. Marys played in the War of 1812.



## **Fernandina Beach: A Victorian Treasure**

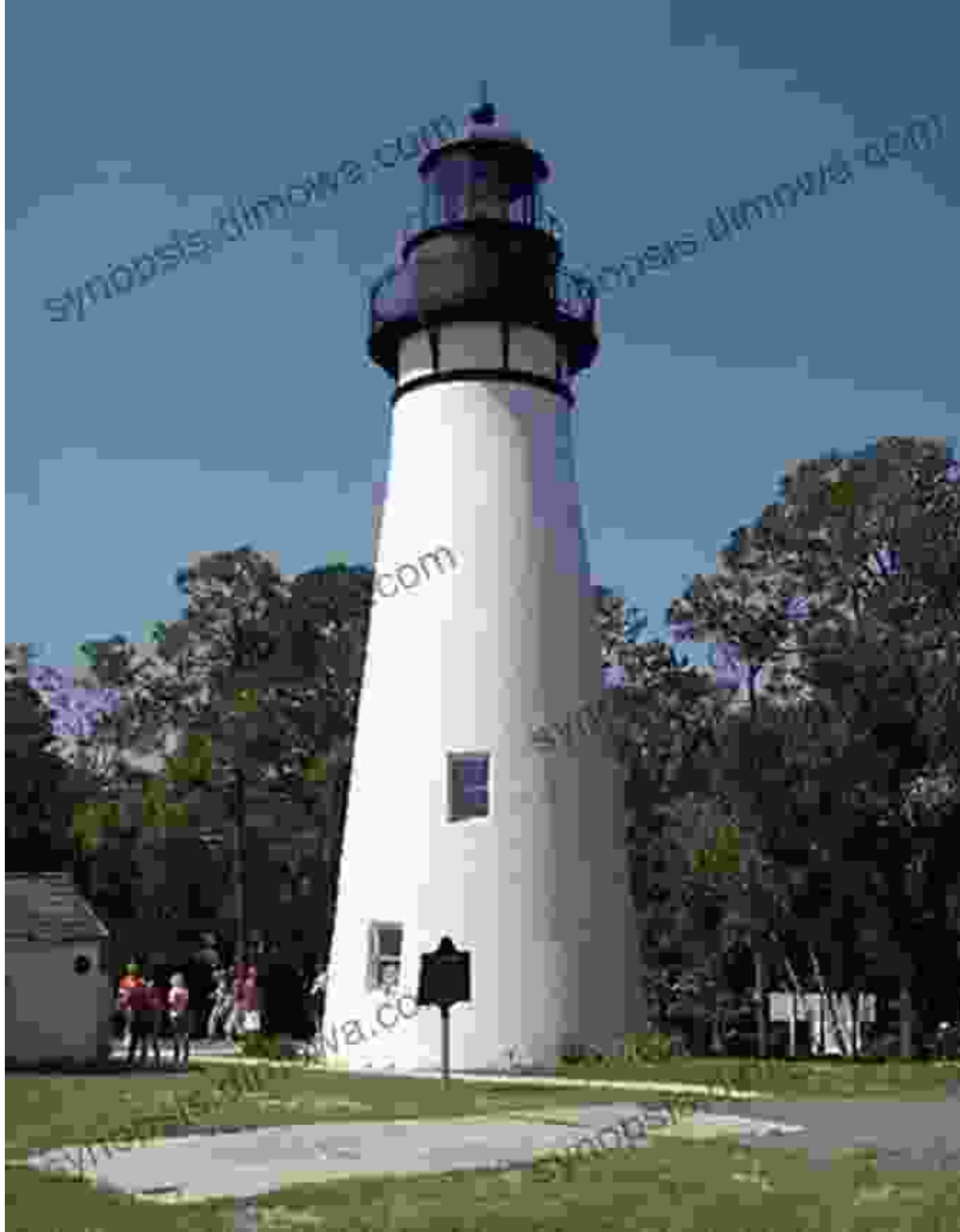
Cross the state line into Florida and immerse yourself in the Victorian charm of Fernandina Beach. This seaside town boasts a vibrant downtown area filled with unique shops, art galleries, and charming restaurants. Visit the Fernandina Beach Museum of History to gain insights into the town's intriguing past and its role as a major port during the 19th century.



Step back in time as you explore the Victorian streets of Fernandina Beach.

### **Amelia Island: Natural Beauty and Coastal Elegance**

Just north of Fernandina Beach lies Amelia Island, an exclusive barrier island renowned for its natural beauty and coastal elegance. Play a round of golf on one of the island's championship courses, or simply bask in the sunshine on the pristine beaches. Explore the Amelia Island Museum of History to learn about the island's fascinating past, from its days as a Spanish colony to its role as a popular vacation destination.



As you complete your journey along the American Auto Trail Highway 17, you will have experienced a diverse and captivating tapestry of Georgia's hidden gems. From the historic streets of Savannah to the pristine beaches of Amelia Island, this road trip offers a unique opportunity to connect with the state's rich heritage, natural wonders, and vibrant local culture. So,



pack your bags, prepare for an unforgettable adventure, and let the American Auto Trail Highway 17 guide you to the heart of Georgia.



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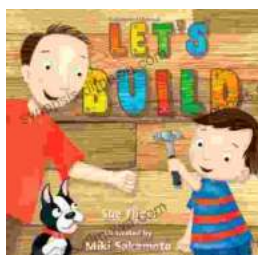
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