

Explore one of the Private Islands of Georgia



Each of the islands is accessible by boat.

paddle your own course or take one of the planned kayak trails and explore the beauty of the area at eye level. For larger groups or those less experienced, Danny Grissette of Altamaha Coastal Tours will be happy to provide kayaks for you and your group and give you a guided tour of the area. Getting out and exploring Eagle Island and the surrounding waterways and hammocks, taking in the natural beauty and learning about our coastal wildlife and plant life is a fun and healthy way of spending your first full day on the island. Follow it up that evening with a great dinner of your own catch or make use of your own provisions, then curl up in front of the fireplace and spend time with your group.

DAY THREE:

After a hearty breakfast, load the boat with picnic lunches and your crew and head for Sapelo Island. No worries if you don't have a boat – Captain Andy will be happy to ferry you himself or you can rent his pontoon boat and make the trip yourself. Either way, Sapelo is not to be missed. Visit the lighthouse, explore the mansion once home to R.J. Reynolds family, or simply make your way to the beach and gather an amazing collection of shells and enjoy your picnic lunch watching waves of the Atlantic crash on the shore. The island is full of history and natural

Private Islands of Georgia takes pride in considering every detail of your visit. Forget something? Just ask and it will be provided. Have a special occasion such as a birthday or anniversary? Guest services will arrange for birthday cakes, flower bouquets, or whatever else you might like to make your stay extra special. Whatever you need to make your trip perfect, just ask!

beauty so there's something for everyone.

Back on Eagle, make use of the outdoor kitchen once again and the conch shell you found earlier in the day to host an oyster roast (see Captain Andy's own recipe on page 23) for your group. After dinner, make the most of your last evening in this secluded paradise and enjoy the hot tub and fireplace on the side porch when the last heat of the day has faded.

DAY FOUR:

Enjoy another full day if you wish – check out time is up to you! But be prepared when you return to the real world for “post-wonderful shock syndrome” – and the only cure is to book your next trip to Eagle Island so you have something wonderful in the future to look forward to!



The outdoor fireplace on Captain Andy's Mayhall Island slice of heaven, constructed of ballast stone and other fun found items.

All photos by Amy Reynolds

CAPTAIN ANDY HILL — A MAN WITH VISION

Formerly of Atlanta, Captain Andy Hill did what many do: worked all year and took his weekly vacations to the Georgia Coast. But he fell in love with the area and a week at a time wasn't enough, so when the hammock that's now Eagle Island came up for sale in 1992, he pinched his pennies together and bought it.

“If you wait until you can afford something, you'll never do it,” Andy said. In the years since, he's purchased six other islands, all accessible from Eagle Island by boat or kayak. One of which, Mayhall Island, he's turning into his own private retreat, finishing and refurbishing a structure that was partially built in 1962 but never completed and years later was abandoned. He hopes to have it completed in the fall of 2011. The other islands include Escape Island for rustic camping with a picnic hammock and fire ring, Little Mayhall Island, Grassiefield Island, Mick Island, Jagger Island, and the four acre Little Amelia Island, named for Andy's daughter, which he describes as, “An Island waiting to be.” According to Andy, “The islands offer a great place to escape so close to home, and yet be so far away once you arrive, you can place yourself a million miles away in a hideaway for yourself and the others you choose to be around.”

What makes these islands so special can be summed up in two parts. The first part is, of course, the wild beauty of untouched marshland and hammocks surrounded by our pristine waterways, and teeming with native species of plants, birds, and animals. The second part, and equally important, is the vision of Andy Hill.

Possibly the most integral aspect of his vision for these islands is his respect for what nature has on display. “We have the most beautiful backyard in this country,” Andy said, “and I want to share it with people without spoiling it.” And he manages to do just that. Trails are cleared by hand through the underbrush, leaving old oaks, oyster mounds, and native fauna in place, and are never paved; in fact, you won't find so much as a speck of blacktop on any of the Private Islands of Georgia. Nature remains the dominant force here, as it should.

Andy is also a firm believer in “waste not, want not” and is the undisputed king of repurposing. He's also just downright creative. From turning Cyprus driftwood he hauled out of the river himself into planters, arbors, and other décor, to using a salvaged quarter of old timber from the timber era (1865 – 1965) for a fireplace mantle, building an outdoor fireplace of discarded ballast stone to using old pine planking from a house being torn down to fashion stylish kitchen cabinets, Andy sees beauty and purpose in things the rest of us might consider merely scraps of junk. And he pulls it off with a graceful style you don't often see.

The third important key is his own “5-Moon” take on service, detail, and perfection. Not to be confused with 5-Star or 5-Diamond, 5-Moon goes much further. Beautiful accommodations with attention to the smallest details, complete luxury that is still comfortable enough to kick off your shoes, relax and enjoy, and every possible need being met with a careful eye toward comfort, discretion and privacy.

Whether you're planning a family reunion, a business retreat, a getaway with friends, or even a private trip to celebrate a special occasion, Captain Andy's vision will ensure your stay on Eagle Island and the Private Islands of Georgia goes beyond your expectations.



Captain Andy Hill at the helm as we explore his islands and nearby waterways. Not comfortable enough with your own boat handling skills in unfamiliar waters? Andy will spend time with you on your boat or his and ease you into the experience.

PROVISIONS

- When registering, you will be provided with a code to order your groceries and beverages online from Harris Teeter. Captain Andy's crew will accept delivery and stock the kitchen for you
- Waterfront Wine & Gourmet offers a wide selection of wines as well as artisan cheeses and a variety of tasty treats (912) 437-3410
- Halyard's Restaurant on St. Simon's Island offers prepared foods as well as a private chef for special occasions (912) 638-9100
- Captain Andy will arrange for Wild Georgia Shrimp for your Low Country Boil or fresh Georgia oysters for your oyster roast.