



Island I see you in all of my dreams  
But I'm a man with no means to reach your distant shore  
Island I see you in the moonlight  
Silhouettes of ships in the night  
Just make me long that much more  
To be like you.

—From the song "Island" by Jimmy Buffet

## Islands within driving distance of South Mississippi

By Elaine Stevens

The word *island* conjures up romance, relaxation, solitude, and sand—definitely the kind of getaway about which most travelers are passionate. Mississippi's barrier islands—Ship, Cat, Petit Bois, and Horn—hold great appeal for many, but if raw Nature and isolation are not exactly the elements you are seeking, here are some options. You don't have to fly across oceans and have deep pockets to enjoy island amenities such as luxury resorts, private beaches, gourmet restaurants, outdoor recreation and family time. **See South Mississippi** has discovered these welcomed vacation features are available by jumping in your car and embarking on a one day

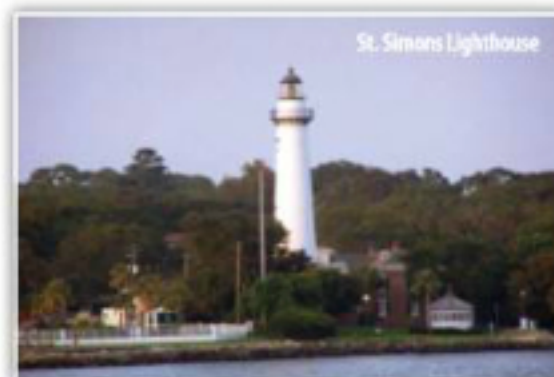
drive to islands within driving distance of South Mississippi. In our new 2015 travel series, "Islands Within Driving Distance of South Mississippi," our first adventure takes us to picturesque St. Simons Island, Georgia, and its royal retreat with a strong Mississippi connection, **The King and Prince Beach & Golf Resort**. So, as the locals there say:

**KEEP CALM AND GO TO ST. SIMONS  
ONE OF AMERICA'S HAPPIEST SEASIDE  
TOWNS**

Located off Georgia's southern Atlantic coast, St. Simons is the largest of the four "Golden Isles": **St. Simons, Sea Island, Little St. Simons, and Jekyll Island**—all nestled between Savannah, Georgia, and Jacksonville, Florida. The 540 mile trip from Biloxi is a breeze via I-10. About the size of New York's Manhattan Island, St. Simons has a population of 14,000. Given its intimate geography, the freedom of traversing the island by bicycle, car, or boat is phenomenal. History buffs will be in their glory as they immerse themselves in St. Simons' ancestral legacies, some of which include national parks and landmarks like **Christ Church, Fort Frederica, St. Simons Lighthouse**, and, of course, the celebrated **King and Prince Beach & Golf Resort**, the architectural star of both St. Simons Island and this article, named to the *National Register of Historic Places* in 2005.

### HISTORY OF THE KING AND PRINCE

If her walls could talk, this magnificent structure would reveal romantic interludes dating back to 1935 when it was originally opened as a seaside dance club by Frank Horn and Morgan Wynne. The two men had been thrown out of the exclusive **Cloister Hotel** at



St. Simons Lighthouse



Christ Church

  
*The King and Prince*  
BEACH & GOLF RESORT

#### THE KING AND PRINCE BEACH & GOLF RESORT

201 Arnold Road  
St. Simons Island, Georgia 31522  
Phone: (912) 638-3631  
Reservations: (800) 342-0212  
Fax: (912) 638-7699  
www.kingandprince.com

#### Special thanks:

Leigh Cort, Public Relations/Marketing  
leighcort@bellsouth.net  
Bud St. Pierre, Director Sales/Marketing  
bstpierre@mmihg.com

\*Ranked #6 among the top 10 by  
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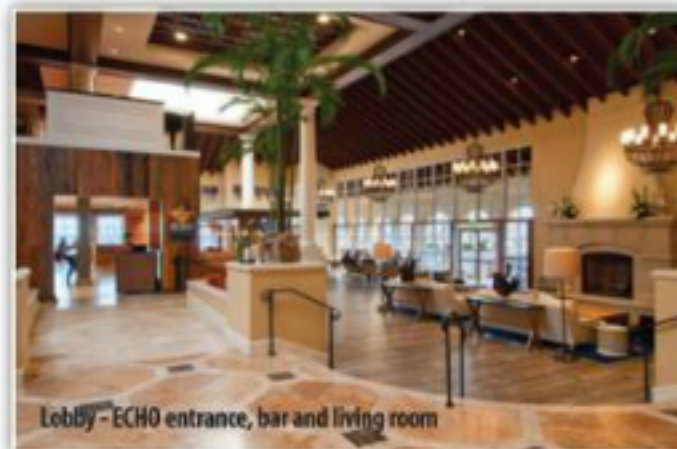


**Sea Island** for disorderly conduct. Legend has it that the hotel got its name from the physical appearance of Horn and Wynne. One was tall and heavy and the other short and skinny, hence they appeared as "the king and prince" when seen together!

On July 2, 1941, the main hotel building opened and was hailed immediately for its grandeur. Soon, however, the hotel was closed to guests while it accommodated U.S. Naval troops and served as a naval coast-watching and training facility during World War II. In fact, **Echo**, the hotel's highly acclaimed oceanfront restaurant, is named in honor of what was then new technology: Radar. As the electromagnetic waves were sent and repeated, the *echo* became a symbol of WWII's impact on island life. Six years passed before **The King and Prince** reopened to the public in 1947. Ten years later, the Bilderberg Conference of over 100 political leaders and industry experts was held at the resort. Undergoing massive renovations in the early 1970's, the facility caught the eye of Mississippi Management,



Chef John's Famous Crabcakes with Jalapeno Tartar Sauce



Lobby - ECHO entrance, bar and living room

Inc., in 1980 with prominent patriarch Mike Sturdivant (1927-2012) leading the charge and more changes.

#### THE "CASTLE BY THE SEA" TODAY

Like a beautiful woman aging gracefully through the ages, "the castle by the

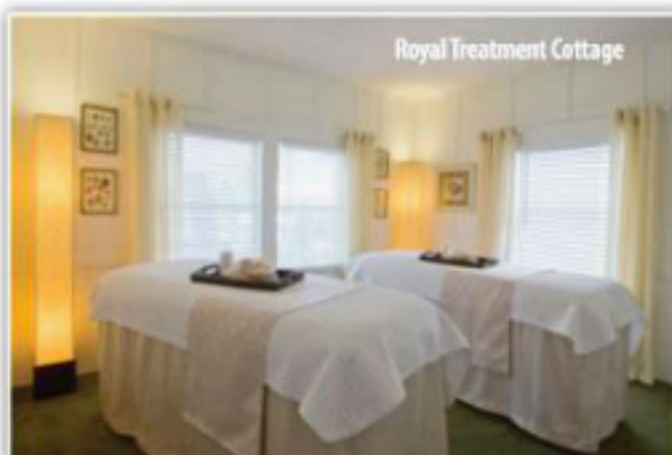
sea" has endured a few makeovers. However, the most recent and certainly the most dramatic renovation to the 76 year old Mission Revival style resort was a thrill to residents and visitors alike in the spring of 2014. "Astounding" is the only word that can describe the disappearance of the noisy Olympic size swimming pool which once greeted visitors as they entered the main lobby. Today, one beholds an elegant yet contemporary atrium that is home to an exquisitely furnished yet casual seating area, ideal for meetings or a romantic rendezvous. Made even cozier by the oversized fireplace, the sunken salon is adjacent to one of the island's most frequented bars and Echo, the cool and modern approach to fine dining, thanks to Executive Chef John Palacio. The freshest fruits of the sea along with farm-to-table produce from nearby Brunswick's Sapelo Farms will entice your palate along with a well-regarded and ever-expanding wine list. Specialties include Chef Palacio's signature crab cakes, succulent cuts of fresh beef, blackened local grouper, arrays of Chef-





selected cheeses, and homemade pastries and desserts. A favorite is the apple cheese cake tart. Winter holidays at The King and Prince are wondrous for the entire family. The staff goes all-out to make Thanksgiving and Christmas colorful, delicious, and eternally memorable.

Award-winning in every way, from its extraordinary meeting spaces to well-appointed oceanfront accommodations, as well as condos, villas, and houses, the historic resort is the only member of **Southern Living Hotel Collection** on the Georgia coast. Needless to say, the Mississippi sense of Southern hospitality and genteel ambiance are pervasive, thanks to its experienced owners, a superb staff of skilled professionals, and a consistent focus on superior service. Physical changes have only enhanced its beauty, and The King and Prince maintains remarkable attention to detail, most especially as it relates to the luxurious comfort of its guests. **Elegant Island Living Magazine** of St. Simons awarded the hotel 5 **BEST OF** categories, including *Best Hotel*, *Best New Restaurant*, and *Best View from a Restaurant*—ECHO. Sunsets are unforgettable!



Royal Treatment Cottage

## SUN, FUN, & MORE AT THE KING AND PRINCE

Recreational opportunities abound on and near the resort. The 18-hole, par 72, King and Prince Golf Course is a key part of the resort's popularity and an award-winner itself: **Best Golf Course - Elegant Island Living**. Designed originally by golf architect Joe Lee, the course underwent extensive renovations in 2009 by architect Billy Fuller, but Lee's signature of four spectacular salt marsh island holes accessed by 800-feet of elevated cart bridges, the island's towering oaks, lakes and lagoons remain true



to the original design. Guest transportation from the resort is available. The King and Prince boasts 5 oceanfront swimming pools, rubico clay tennis courts, and *the Royal Treatment (Spa) Cottage*. Bike and kayak rentals are available nearby. Adventurers can also climb aboard Cap Fendig's Lighthouse Trolley, a fabulous way to meet the island's most popular tour guide and hear first-hand tales of St. Simons legends and history. Venture to the

Village for some diversity—a great bike ride, short drive, or long leisurely walk from the hotel. There you will discover a down-home Georgia style breakfast at Sandcastle and, for dinner, Argentinean cuisine at the new and exciting Del Sur. Of course, beach walking, sun bathing, ocean gazing, and the gentle sound of waves lapping the shore remain the mainstays of many visitors' holidays at the "castle by the sea."

In the next issue of See South Mississippi we will travel to Galveston Island, Texas. So "Bon Voyage" for now, and see you on Galveston Island in three months!



King and Prince Golf Course, hole 12