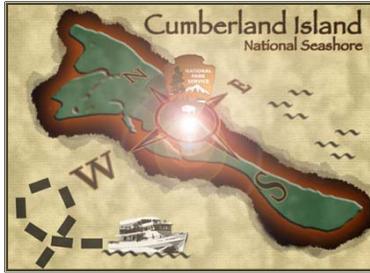


Cumberland Island National Seashore
Field Trip Planning Guide



Cumberland Island National Seashore Field Trip Planning Guide

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I. PLAN YOUR TRIP

We understand there are a lot of details to attend to when planning a field trip for your students. The following information is designed to assist you in planning a field trip to *Cumberland Island National Seashore*. Please read through the guide in its entirety. We think it will answer many of the questions you may have as you plan your trip. Please contact us at 912- 882-4336 ext. 257, if you need additional information.

Ferry Service: Cumberland Island is accessible by boat/ferry. There are no bridges to the island. The Cumberland Island Ferry's carrying capacity is 145. Private charters can carry 145 people. School groups may reserve up to 125 tickets for the 9:00 a.m. or the 11:45 a.m. sailings to the island. Reservations can be made up to six months in advance by calling 877-860-6787 or by faxing the **required form** to 912-673-7747. Reservations made over 30 days in advance require the ferry to be prepaid to hold the reservation. The trip to the island takes 45 minutes.

Entrance Fee Waiver Form: In addition to making your ferry reservations, you will also want to complete an *Entrance Fee Waiver Form* if you believe your group meets the eligibility requirements. More information about this waiver can be found on page 5 of this guide.



Directions: The starting point for your field trip will be the *Cumberland Island National Seashore Visitor Center* located in downtown St. Marys, Georgia.

To get to downtown St. Marys, follow I-95 (North or South) to Exit 3 in Georgia. Take the left turn off the exit ramp onto Highway 40 East. Continue for about 10 miles until it dead ends at the St. Marys waterfront. The two story blue building is the *Cumberland Island Visitor Center*. Please check in upstairs.

Parking: Bus and private vehicle parking is located one block west of the visitor center. Cars and vans are encouraged to park in the lot behind our administration building. Busses will find parking on the east side of Seagrove Street.

Arrival Time: Please plan to arrive & check in at the *Visitors Center 30 minutes* before your scheduled ferry reservation.

Visitor Center Store: There is a small store located upstairs in Visitor Center. The store is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily (except Christmas). The store stocks barrier island - related educational books, activities, and gifts. Due to its size, it can accommodate only small groups of students. An adult must accompany and supervise students who are shopping.

Boarding the Ferry: Once everyone has checked in at the *Visitor Center*, a park representative will gather everyone traveling to the island and escort them to the ferry.

II. PLAN YOUR ACTIVITIES

Teacher Led Activities: When planning a field trip to Cumberland Island, teachers should plan activities which are **teacher or chaperone led**. You can find a variety of activities in the *Curriculum Materials* section of our website. Lessons can be adapted or modified to meet the needs of your group and they provide a good starting point when planning your time on the island.

NOTE: While on the island, shells & shark's teeth may be collected. All other resources can be observed and then returned to its proper place. Please help keep Cumberland Island a special place by respecting and protecting our natural resources and private property.

Public Programs: School groups are invited to join public programs, but should not count on the availability of public programs for their field trip content as public programs may be canceled or rescheduled due to staffing constraints. Our daily *Dungeness Footsteps History Walk* takes place twice daily, when a ranger is available, and starts shortly after the ferry arrives at the Dungeness Dock.



Ranger Led Programs: Additional ranger led programs may be scheduled once a ferry reservation is made. Ranger led programs are scheduled on a first come, first requested basis, and can be booked only **after** your ferry reservation has been scheduled and confirmed. Ranger led programs are available as staffing permits and are generally one hour in length. For more information, call **912-882-4336 ext. 257** or email: **cuis_information@nps.gov**.

Lunch: There is no food service available on the island. Plan to eat outdoors at the picnic tables located throughout the park. Everyone should come prepared with a hearty bag lunch and beverages. Water bottles can be refilled at the fountains located throughout the park. Also, please note that Cumberland Island is a “pack it in, pack it out” park. There are **no trash receptacles** on the island, so please be prepared to carry your garbage back to the mainland.

Bathrooms: There are ADA bathrooms at the *Cumberland Island Visitor Center* and on the island at *Dungeness Dock*, *Sea Camp Ranger Station*, the *Campground* and the *Laundry House* in the Dungeness Historic District. There are also bathrooms on the ferry, but these may not meet ADA standards. Please refer to the **Cumberland Island Map** for more details on the locations of these facilities

Special Needs: The National Park Service encourages students with special needs to participate in programs as much as possible. Please call to discuss any special arrangements and/or program adjustments.

III. PREPARE YOUR STUDENTS

Students will enjoy the trip more if they are well prepared and know what to expect.

You should also provide the same information to your adult chaperones and anyone else accompanying you on your field trip.

What to Wear: The coast is likely to be cooler & breezier than inland areas. Students should come equipped with seasonally appropriate clothing and rain gear. There is no vehicular transportation on the island. Students should wear comfortable walking shoes. Hats help keep the bugs off and shade the head in warmer months and help keep the heat in, in the winter

Comfort Gear: Sand gnats, ticks, and mosquitoes can be found on the island year round. Students should bring plenty of insect repellent. Sunscreen is also recommended, year round.

Rules: Please review any class rules that would apply in a field trip setting. Teachers & chaperones are responsible for student discipline during the visit. Teachers may want to consider bringing a whistle to help get students' attention while on the trip.

Cumberland Island Background Information: To help your students get the most out of their field trip, you may want to provide some basic history and background information on Cumberland Island prior to your visit. In addition, if you plan to use one of the Cumberland Island lesson plans or activities, you can also prepare your students by reviewing the lesson with them before you come.

Cumberland Island Resources:

Resources

Cumberland Island National Seashore Park website
<http://www.nps.gov/cuis/index.htm>

Cumberland Island Online Map (use to help orient your students)
<http://www.nps.gov/cuis/loader.cfm?csModule=security/getfile&pageid=516927>

Cumberland Island Curriculum Materials
 Add link to new teachers' page.

Cumberland Island Conservancy website
<http://cumberlandisland.com/>

Wilderness.net: Cumberland Island
<http://www.wilderness.net/NWPS/wildView?WID=145>

WJCT Documentary: Ft. Frederica & Cumberland Island (online video)
<http://ondemand.wjct.org/node/230>

IV. ENSURING STUDENT SAFETY

For the safety of your students, you must **be prepared** for any emergency situation. While prevention of any injuries is the goal, the following information will help to prepare you should an emergency arise.

Chaperones: Students should be well supervised at all times. Plan to have at least one adult chaperone for each 10 students.

Health Forms: Group leaders should have health forms and permission slips for all students, parent aides, and educators with them on the trip. Review the health forms and note any unusual allergies or health needs prior to the trip. The local hospital needs this information to treat injured persons. The hospital must also be able to reach a parent or guardian by phone in order to treat a child. Phone numbers for all participants should be easily accessible.

First Aid: Groups occasionally choose to bring their school nurse on trips to handle any health needs. If this is not possible, a person certified in first aid training should accompany the group. The teacher should carry a first aid kit, as well as any necessary medications for the students.

Emergency Vehicles: If possible, one group leader or adult should plan on driving a separate vehicle to the Visitor Center, rather than riding the school bus. In an emergency, an injured person can be transported back to the mainland by NPS boat. Leaders would need to be able to accompany an injured student and/or ambulance to the hospital.

General Items: Items that can help make the trip more comfortable and pleasant, include: garbage bags, whistle, spare sack lunch, sunscreen, bug repellent, hat, compass, and a map (maps are available at the visitor center and docks). Pencil and paper are good items to have if you want students to take notes. *Remember, once you are on the island, there is no going back to the bus!*

Swimming/Wading: If you plan to include swimming or wading activities during your visit, you will need to have a certified life guard present. There are no lifeguards present on Cumberland Island beaches

Inclement Weather: In the event of severe weather, you may want to use the bathrooms as shelter.

Who to Call for Help: If an emergency arises, **call 911**. Provide dispatcher with your location on Cumberland Island and stay on the line until help arrives.

V. FORMS

The following forms have been provided in this section to help you plan & prepare for your trip:

Entrance Fee Waiver Form
Cumberland Island Reservation Fax Form
Field Trip Planning Checklist

Entrance Fee Waiver Form: There are 3 criteria which must be met in order to qualify for an academic entrance fee waiver: *eligibility*, *educational purpose*, and *relevance of park resources or facilities*. If you think your group meets these criteria, please print and complete the form on the next page. Your completed **Waiver Form** can be faxed to **912-882-6284**.

Eligibility: National or international applicants must prove they are a school or bona fide academic institution by submitting one of the following types of documentation: (1) a statement confirming educational or scientific tax exemption from the IRS or the applicant's national, state, or local tax authority; or (2) a statement from a bona fide academic institution meeting one of these eligibility standards, confirming that the group visiting for the purpose of providing academic credit based curriculum; or a statement of accreditation or recognition as an educational institution from a legitimate international, national, regional, state or local authority for the applicant's location.

Educational Purpose of the Visit: Applicants must provide a written statement (documentation) verifying that the visit supports a specific curriculum for which academic credit is offered.

Relevance to Park Resources or Facilities: Relevance to park resources must be described. Applicants must provide a written statement identifying the park resources and/or facilities that will be used to support the educational purpose of the visit, and how they are relevant to that purpose.

Cumberland Island Reservation Form: This form can be used to make ferry reservations. Complete the form and fax it to: **912-673-7747**

Field Trip Planning Checklist: While not all inclusive, this checklist may be helpful as you plan your trip.

National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior
CUMBERLAND ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE

Educational Group Visits – Groups that wish to tour National Park facilities for strictly educational purposes may request a waiver of the normal recreation fees. Authority to grant this waiver is contained in the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (as amended and codified in 16 USC 4201-4); with implementing regulations found in 36 CFR 71 and National Park Service policy.

Please complete the information below. **THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITHIN TWO WEEKS FROM “DATE WAIVER MAILED.” FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN THE DENIAL OF YOUR WAIVER AND RESERVATION REQUEST. SEND TO: Cumberland Island National Seashore, 101 Wheeler Street, St. Marys, GA 31558.**

Date of Request		Date of Reservation	
School Name		Time of Reservation	
Address		Reservation Confirmation #	
City/State/Zip			
Phone		Grade Level	
Requestors Signature		# of Adults	
		# of Children	
		Total #	

Request for Fee Waiver – Please comply with items 1-3 below.

1. Proof of Educational Status: Recognition of your institution as an educational entity; This will normally be your certificate of accreditation from a governmental or other agency authorized to regulate educational institutions, a tax ID number issued by the IRS or National, State or Local tax authority, or letter from academic institution confirming visit qualifies for transferable academic credit based on curriculum.

2. Statement of Educational Purpose: Provide a written explanation of the educational purpose and how it is related to park resources is required. Course outlines, lesson plans, or a copy of the curriculum meet this requirement.

3. Course Title, Catalog Number, and Description or Grade Level and Subject Matter and how you will use the park resources to meet these goals.

(DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE)

Waiver: _____ Granted _____ Denied

Remarks: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

CUMBERLAND ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE INFORMATION

Reservations may be made six months in advance. Reservations are recommended and may be made by phone or fax Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.. The reservation line is toll free at (877)860-6787.

The fax line is (912) 673-7747. Please use the fax form provided. **Mailed and e-mailed reservations will not be processed.**

From March through November the ferry runs seven days a week. From December through February the ferry runs five days a week, Thursday through Monday. There is no ferry service Tuesday and Wednesdays. The ferry will **NOT transport pets, kayaks or cars.**

The ferry departs St Marys at 9:00 a.m. and 11:45 a.m.

The ferry departs Cumberland Island at 10:15am and 4:45pm.

March through September, there is also a 2:45pm departure.

Charges for the ferry: All charges are round trip and include 7% sales tax.

Adult	\$28.00
Children	\$18.00 (12 and under)
Seniors	\$26.00 (65 and over)

National Park Fees: Day use fee \$4.00 per person per visit (day use is good for 7 consecutive days.)

Camping Fees (Campers pay day use and camping fees) Reservations required.

Sea Camp campground	\$4.00 per person per
Back Country and Wilderness campgrounds	\$2.00 per person per night

Cumberland Island mean temperatures maximum/minimum:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
65	64	72	79	85	88	90	90	86	79	71	65
44	46	50	57	64	70	72	72	70	62	51	45

Cumberland Island mean water temperatures:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
55	55	62	70	77	81	84	84	82	74	66	58

The National Weather Service may be reached at (904) 741-4311. www.weather.com can also be used for internet forecasts.

Greyfield Inn is a privately owned and operated business on Cumberland Island. You may obtain information by calling (904) 261-6408 OR (888) 243-9238.

Cumberland Island National Seashore Reservation Fax Form

Fax Number (912) 673-7747 Faxes accepted Monday – Friday 9:00am – 4:00 p.m. If you do not receive confirmation back by fax or phone call, please call the reservation office at 877-860-6787. Form must be completely filled out for reservation to be processed.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Fax Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Credit Card: Visa/MC CCV # _____ Name on Card: _____

CC#: _____ Expiration MM/YY _____

Number in party:

Adults: _____ Children (12 and under): _____ Senior Citizens (65 and over): _____
(\$28.00 each + tax) (\$18.00 each + tax) (\$26.00 each + tax)

Dates from: _____ TO: _____ Alternate Dates from: _____ TO: _____

Transportation to the Island will be provided by: (Circle one option)

Ferry Boat Private Charter Your own Boat

St Marys Departure time: (Circle one Option)

9:00 AM 11:45 AM

Island Departure time: (Circle one Option)

10:15 AM 4:45 PM 2:45 PM* (available Wednesday – Saturday only from March 1 – August 31)*

Would you accept a partial reservation if your full dates are not available? YES: _____ NO: _____

Example: Your preferred dates are Jan. 1st to Jan. 7th but only Jan. 1st to Jan. 5th are available.

Camping Information:

Visit www.nps.gov/cuis for information on campgrounds and planning.

Once you are prepared to make your reservation call Cumberland Island National Seashore Camping Reservation Office at (912) 882-4336 ext. 1. Office hours are Noon to 4 P.M. seven days a week.

Lands and Legacies Tour:

Number in party: _____
(\$45.00 + tax per person)

Date of Tour: _____

Children must have car seat or booster seat according to GA state law. Due to the variation in children, the NPS does not provide car or booster seats. It is the responsibility of the adult to provide and properly install this safety device before the tour starts.

Cumberland Island National Seashore Field Trip Checklist

- Set a date:** Make ferry reservations, request ranger led programs, order busses, etc.
- Do the paperwork:** Complete entrance fee waiver form, collect permission forms, health forms and complete any other paperwork required by your school or district.
- Make a plan:** Plan your time on the island. Decide on activities. Bring a camera and take pictures and short video clips to enjoy when you get back.
- Recruit chaperones:** Meet with chaperones ahead of time, if possible. Explain the types of assistance you will need on the trip. Provide them with a list of items to bring.
- Prepare students:** Make sure students know what is expected of them while on the field trip. Provide them with a list of items to bring. Explain the types of activities you will be doing on the field trip. Use the background resources to tell them a little about Cumberland Island.
- Extensions:** Create a scrapbook of your trip. Write thank you notes to chaperones. Take a group photo, while on the island, and make copies for everyone to have as a souvenir of their Cumberland Island adventure!