

# Jekyll Island

GEORGIA'S JEWEL

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## **Jekyll Island Announces 5th Annual Turtle Crawl Benefiting the Georgia Sea Turtle Center**

***-- Registration Underway for USAT-Sanctioned Olympic Distance Triathlon  
and 5 km. Fun Run/Walk --***

**Jekyll Island, Ga. (March 20, 2007)** – Whether your pace is like the turtle or a bit more like a hare, Jekyll Island's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Turtle Crawl will have something for you. Taking place May 5, the Turtle Crawl features a USAT- sanctioned Olympic Distance Triathlon, and a 5km Fun Run & Walk. Proceeds from the event benefit the Georgia Sea Turtle Center, a \$2.6 million Sea Turtle rehabilitation center, set to open on Jekyll Island this summer.

The weekend begins with the Triathlon, featuring a 1.5 km. swim, 40 km. bike and a 10 km. run that spans the entire island providing competitors a natural landscape, much of which remains in an undeveloped state. The Triathlon is open for individual participants, as well as relay teams of two or three (with each relay team member participating in one leg of the event). Start time for the event is 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 5, 2007, with the awards ceremony taking place immediately afterward (at noon). Pre-registration is available online at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com).

Those who want to compete more in line with the speed of a sea turtle will have that option. Jekyll Island is also hosting a 5 km. Fun Run/Walk, which is open to people of all ages and athletic abilities. The 5 km. Fun Run/Walk begins at 8:30 a.m. with awards for the top three finishers to be presented at noon.

"Jekyll Island's beautiful landscape and great weather make the island a natural fit for an outdoor athletic event," said Eric Garvey, senior marketing director for the Jekyll Island Authority. "The Turtle Crawl provides runners of all levels an amazing course with views not easily matched anywhere."

The athletic events surround a full day of activities, including music, food and kid friendly activities. In keeping with the theme, guests can learn more about sea turtles during NestFest, an interactive

learning symposium directly following the athletic events. NestFest activities will take place beginning at 9 a.m. inside the Convention Center.

Late afternoon, the party moves to the Oceanside Hotel for an old-fashioned cook-out. Music and entertainment provided by the Big Dawg and Paul Show. There will be a charge for dinner. The entertainment is complimentary.

### **About the Georgia Sea Turtle Center**

The Georgia Sea Turtle Center officially broke ground in Jekyll Island, Ga.'s Historic Landmark District in early 2006 on the site of the original 1903 Power Plant building, much of which will be preserved and incorporated into the new facilities. The ambitious, \$2.6 million center – offering an outstanding, museum-style learning experience and a state-of-the-art rehabilitation center and veterinary clinic – will be the first of its kind in Georgia. The Center will officially open this summer. For more information about the Georgia Sea Turtle Center and related programs, visit [www.georgiaseaturtlecenter.org](http://www.georgiaseaturtlecenter.org).

### **About Jekyll Island.**

Jekyll Island is a barrier island on Georgia's coast – midway between Jacksonville, Fla.; and Savannah, Ga. Accessible by car just minutes from I-95, Jekyll Island offers a variety of amenities, including 10 miles of beach, four golf courses, a 250-acre Historic Landmark District, water park, tennis center, an array of lodging options including hotels, cottages and campgrounds. Owned by the State of Georgia, and managed by the Jekyll Island State Park Authority, Jekyll Island has had development limited to just 35 percent of its available land area. This unique aspect of Jekyll Island serves to preserve the critical barrier island ecosystem, as well as provides guests with a unique escape from the crowds and complications of other beach resort destinations. Please visit [www.jekyllisland.com](http://www.jekyllisland.com) for more information or call 1-877-4JEKYLL.

### **About the Jekyll Island Foundation**

The Jekyll Island Foundation is a tax exempt, public, non-profit that offers participatory opportunities in planned giving, private donation, legislative education, corporate support, and philanthropic foundation support. The Foundation serves to raise, receive, manage and disburse funds for the stewardship of the historic and natural resources of Jekyll Island. This stewardship includes preservation and improvement of historic sites, conservation of the undeveloped portion of the island and development and improvement of amenities for visitors to the island. The Jekyll Island Foundation's current project is a major capital campaign to help fund the construction of the Georgia Sea Turtle Center. Activities include the Georgia Sea Turtle Center "Walkway to Wonder" program, where personalized bricks can be purchased for \$50 and placed permanently in the walkway outside the Center. For additional information on the Jekyll Island Foundation or to learn more about the "Walkway to Wonder" commemorative brick program, please visit [www.JekyllIslandFoundation.org](http://www.JekyllIslandFoundation.org) or call (912) 635-4402. The Foundation office is located in Villa Ospo at 381 Riverview Drive, Jekyll Island, Ga., 31527.

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