

Jekyll Island

www.jekyllisland.com

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Treasure Hunt on Jekyll Island

Enjoy a stroll on Jekyll Island's beach and you might just find a special treasure.

Jekyll Island, GA - December 31, 2008 – Beginning New Year's Day and continuing through the months of January and February, the Jekyll Island Authority hosts "Island Treasures on Jekyll Island", a unique treasure hunting experience on Georgia's most popular public beach. The treasures are hand-crafted glass floats, called Island Treasures. The glass floats have been sought after by Jekyll Island guests since 2002. Each is unique and stamped with the year to be a collector's item for the lucky beachcomber who finds one.

Island Treasures mimic glass floats once used on the fishing nets of fishermen in the early 1900s. The floats would sometimes break loose and wash ashore for lucky beachcombers to find and keep. Collecting these glass floats became a hobby in the 1950's, declined as commercial fishing moved to plastic and Styrofoam floats. Glass fishing floats became more rare and are highly sought after and very valuable today.

During these first two winter months, the Jekyll Island Authority recreates this hunt-and-find experience is recreated. The glass float treasures are the works of commissioned artists from across the country. "Beach Buddies" hide them along the shore line every day for lucky visitors to find and keep. Treasure finders can register their Island Treasure at the Jekyll Island Visitor Information Center to receive a bio on the artist and a certificate of authenticity. The Jekyll Island Visitor Information Center has Island Treasure floats and an array of the other colorful glass creations for purchase in-store or online at www.jekyllisland.com/islandtreasures.

"Jekyll Island is a popular winter escape for guests from northern states and Canada," explained Beth Burnsed, Event Marketing Coordinator. "The natural beauty of our beach has its own special rewards to beachcombers, but to find a beautiful Island Treasure is really exciting!"

Since the promotion began six years ago, over 1,000 glass floats have been found by guests from across the U.S., Canada and England. Jekyll Island floats are collector's items and can be occasionally found on auction sites like eBay.

Those who are unable to visit Jekyll Island can participate in a virtual treasure hunt on www.jekyllisland.com. Search the website for small, hidden Island Treasure pictures. The first person to click on one will win an actual Island Treasure that will be shipped to them.

Participating hotels have special programs and packages to celebrate Island Treasures on Jekyll Island. Jekyll Island has seven hotels open and operating, including the boutique Beachview Club. Other hotels include the Oceanside Inn & Suites, Quality Inn, Jekyll Oceanfront Clarion Resort, Villas By The Sea, Jekyll Island Club Hotel and the Days Inn & Suites. For more information on Island Treasures and other events on Jekyll Island, visit www.jekyllisland.com or call 1-877-4JEKYLL.

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, and provide guests with a unique escape from the crowds and complications of other beach resort destinations. The Jekyll Island Foundation is a public 501 (c) 3 organization which operates exclusively for charitable and educational purposes to support the work of the Jekyll Island Authority by assisting in the preservation, conservation and appreciation of Jekyll Island. Please visit www.jekyllisland.com for more information or call 1-877-4JEKYLL.