

For Immediate Release

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Local and Visiting Cyclists Invited to Take 'Jekyll Island Challenge'

Two-day Cycling Odyssey along Georgia's Coast
Benefits the Georgia Sea Turtle Center

Jekyll Island, Ga. (March 23, 2006) – Jekyll Island and BicycleSavannah, LLC, have teamed up to provide local and visiting cyclists with a scenic tour of the Georgia Coast through the Jekyll Island Challenge. The two-day event, held May 20-21, 2006, will feature a variety of touring options for cyclists of all ages and abilities. Proceeds raised through the event will benefit the Georgia Sea Turtle Center, set to open its doors in spring 2007.

Riding options on Saturday, May, 20, include a 29-mile round trip tour from Darien, Ga., to Sapelo Island, Ga., and back. Embarking from Darien at 9:30 a.m., riders will pass through The Ridge, a community listed in the National Registry of Historic Places. A discounted lunch will be offered at the upscale Skipper's Fish Camp in Darien. At 4:30 p.m., the festivities continue on Jekyll Island, as riders are invited to participate in an on-island scavenger hunt for historic names and places. The day culminates in a reception on the Beach Deck adjacent to the Jekyll Island Convention Center, starting at 6 p.m.

On Sunday, May 21, four separate touring experiences will be offered. At 8 a.m., the 50-mile, 63-mile and 100-mile cycling routes will depart from the Jekyll Island Convention Center and lead riders North along US 17, over the shipping channel bridge and back along US 84. The 100-mile course will take riders briefly onto St. Simons Island, providing these riders with the additional challenge of another bridge to cross. At 9 a.m., the 25-mile tour begins at the Jekyll Island Convention Center and meanders throughout the island before heading off the island and over the Intracoastal Waterway Bridge. All riders will be treated to a buffet meal Sunday afternoon in the Beachside Hall of the Jekyll Island Convention Center.

Registration fee options for the Jekyll Island Challenge are as follows: Adult registration (over 18 years of age) is \$35 for events on both days, \$10 for Saturday events only, and \$30 for Sunday events only. Children's fees are \$5 off for ages 12-18 and free for children under age 12. A souvenir T-shirt is available for an additional \$12. Registration after May 15, 2006 will be subject to an additional \$5 late fee. To register, visit active.com or www.bicyclesavannahllc.com. For more information call 912-665-0854 or e-mail bicyclesavannah@comcast.net

Participating Jekyll Island hotels have special rates available for visitors interesting in staying on the island as part of the weekend's festivities. Package rates are as follows:

DAYS INN & Suites (Host Hotel)

60 S. Beachview Drive
888-635-3003

Rates: \$79.00 & up (to receive package rate, ask for JI Bike Ride)

Oceanside Inn & Suites

711 N. Beachview Drive
877-842-3224
Rates: \$79.00 and up (ask for JI Bike Ride)

Quality Inn & Suites

700 N. Beachview Drive
912-635-2202
Rates: \$79.00 and up, including \$139.00 for two-bedroom suites (ask for Jekyll Island Challenge)

Buccaneer Beach Resort

85 S. Beachview Drive
877-842-3224
Rates: \$89.00 and up (ask for OCS-Bike Savannah)

Jekyll Oceanfront Resort

975 N. Beachview Drive
800-736-1046
Rates: \$99.00 and up (ask for Bicycle Jekyll)

About the Georgia Sea Turtle Center

Offering three-dimensional sculptures, floor-to-ceiling murals of the Georgia coast, dramatic photographic and hands on exhibits, interactive games, aquariums housing a sea turtle and other marine life, and interpretive audio components, designers have created a state-of-the-art facility in the new, Georgia Sea Turtle Center. Focusing on research, rehabilitation and public education, the Center will not only assist injured turtles in healing and re-acclimating to their natural environment, but it will also lead the state's efforts in research and in teaching the public more about sea turtles. The Georgia Sea Turtle Center is further supported by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GADNR), the state agency responsible for the protection and management of endangered and threatened sea turtle species in Georgia. The Georgia Sea Turtle Center is slated for opening in spring of 2007, and will begin groundbreaking in early 2006. For more information on the Georgia Sea Turtle Center, please visit www.georgiaseaturtles.org or contact the Jekyll Island Foundation at (912) 635-4402.

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 for more information or call 1-877-4JEKYL.