



Visit Downtown Montezuma

Listed on the National Historic Register in 2003

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Nestled on the bank of the Flint River, Historic Downtown Montezuma is part of Southwest Georgia's Presidential Pathways travel region on the Andersonville Trail. Located at the intersection of Georgia Highways 49 and 90, downtown is 20 minutes from Interstate 75 and 10 minutes north of the Andersonville National Historic Site and Prisoner of War Museum. Stop by the Welcome Center located in the Carnegie Library for southern welcome and more information on our rich past and great future.

The town was completely submerged by the Flood of 1994 and benefited from streetscapes and park spaces during recovery efforts. Today, downtown is undergoing an economic revitalization led by Montezuma's Downtown Development Authority. Montezuma's downtown district is listed on the National Historic Register and featured in new driving tour guide produced through a Historic Preservation Fund grant from the U. S. Department of Interior's National Park Services.



The district encompasses historic residential, commercial and community landmark resources centered along a mile and a half stretch of Dooly Street, the main north-south thoroughfare through the town. The heritage driving tour focuses on examples of architecture ranging from Neoclassical to Victorian Queen Anne to Craftsman to rare examples of vernacular and revival cottages. Visit downtown's family operated businesses. Enjoy a soul food lunch with coconut pie at Josie's Restaurant, famous square hamburgers at Troy's Snack Shack, authentic Mexican recipes at La Casa Maya, or finger-licking chicken dinner at Carter's Chicken Express.

Step back in time at the Macon County Historical Museum where a model railroad diorama meanders through charming farming hamlets. It is located in the Montezuma Depot, also listed on the National Historic Register. The collection represents the settlement of the communities along the banks of the Flint, from the first Native Americans to the present

day. Exhibits emphasize the period from the founding of the County in 1837, through the end of the 20th century. The museum features books, photographs, documents, scrap books, a digital photo archive, arrowheads, artifacts, farming implements, furnishings, home wares and other cultural objects.



Relax for the weekend on the shady porch at Traveler's Rest Bed and Breakfast and listen to hymns from the church carillon. Choose the Carriage House located in a tranquil garden setting or one of the luxurious rooms with a garden tub in the 1899 Victorian main house. No detail is overlooked from the accommodations to the romantic gourmet meals. The innkeeper is now offering boxed lunches featuring light fare and seasonal specialties. Book your family or class reunion guest at the Days Inn, which offers a continental breakfast, pool and free wireless internet.

Farms Preservation Park to learn about one of the Nation's only all-Black communities established by the New Deal Resettlement Administration. Unwind with a drive through picturesque Mennonite farmland and revive yourself with a wholesome meal at Yoder's Deitsch Haus Restaurant and Bakery.

Montezuma is surrounded by prime deer country with dense and undisturbed forests nestled along the river. Canoe down the majestic Flint River or spend the afternoon trolling for catfish and bream. Hike the trails of the Montezuma Bluff conservation area where marine fossils mark ancient tidal levels and rare trillium blooms beneath the flight path of wild turkeys, hawks and woodpeckers. Bring your motor coach for an extended stay to take advantage of our temperate climate and welcoming hospitality.



Points of Interest for Visitors to Montezuma

Airport Expansion

The City of Montezuma is in the process of a major airport expansion project. The Dr. C. P. Savage, Sr. Airport's current runway length is 4,200 linear feet and needs to be extended an additional 800 linear feet to accommodate corporate aircraft. It is anticipated that this project will lead to an indirect local and regional impact by increasing accessibility to the community for business and industry; improve Montezuma's industrial marketability; and enhance opportunities for regional economic growth.

Old Fashioned Family Operated Radio

WMNZ radio station is Montezuma's own AM broadcast dedicated to local news and sports. Owned and operated by the second generation of the Blizzard Family, the station is celebrating 47 years on air. It is located in a historic building above the McKenzie Agency, overlooking downtown Montezuma. Blizzard starts each morning's broadcast with a birthday and anniversary calendar, recognizing residents—both alive and those who remain in memory only. Sundays feature "The Heaven Bound Train" program with live broadcasts from several of the community's church services.

Mennonite Community

In the mid-1950's eleven families of Beachy Mennonites from Virginia established a community here. Today the community consists of more than 100 families. The Mennonites provide us an example of hard work, simple living, and agribusiness expertise. A ride through picturesque farmsteads gives a glimpse of a spiritual culture and adherence to values that bind families to the land and to each other. Bible verse signs grace mailboxes and remind passersby of a faith and ethic that are often associated with a bygone era. Yoder's Deutch Haus Restaurant and Bakery is a popular visitor destination, drawing bus loads of diners with famed family style meals and classic dessert pies. The bakery features cakes, cookies, donuts, fresh-baked bread, cinnamon rolls and locally made jellies. A gift shop offers souvenirs to cherish as mementos of your visit.

Ecotourism and Outdoor Activities

The Flint River offers many recreational opportunities to visitors. Boating and fishing enthusiasts can choose from two accessible public access boat ramps, Hooks Landing between Oglethorpe and Montezuma on Highway 49 and Crooks Landing between Montezuma and Marshallville on Highway 49. The Montezuma Bluff Wildlife Management Area is a 500 acre stand of relatively undisturbed mature hardwood forest surrounding Crooks Landing.

The damp, shady slopes sheer off in a 150-foot escarpment of eroded limestone to form a spectacular bluff overlooking a towering beechwood swamp. Boaters can enjoy magnificent views of the bluffs while exploring the swampy creeks and sandbars below. Visitors can see 50 million year old fossilized limestone encrusted with ancient sea shells from the Tallahatta Formation marine ecosystem. Every spring hikers enjoy a stunning display of one of the state's largest populations of rare trillium. The endangered blossoms are clustered among fossils and other protected plant species. They reach for the sun through a blanket of leaves beneath the branches of old-growth beech and magnolia. Trails are open only to foot traffic and include wildlife viewing platforms.

Farm Markets

Brown Farm Market is a family-owned and managed farming business that grows traditional row crops such as cotton, peanuts, and corn, as well as seasonal vegetables. Visit the roadside farm market during the summer months, to sample a wide variety of fruits, vegetables, homemade peach ice cream, unique items for your home, and "pick your own" flowers. Have a peach blossom pastry with an icy hand-squeezed lemonade or sweet tea while shopping for peach pickles, peach butter and peach preserves. The churned ice cream is made daily with lots of fresh peaches straight from the farm. Only the best ingredients and they don't spare the peaches, an important step in producing superb ice cream. Tour the farm with an open air trolley ride.

Kauffman's is a twenty five year old strawberry you-pick farm located just outside of Montezuma's city limits. The beautiful 18 acre farm is open year round. Specializing not only in strawberries, we grow peaches, blueberries, figs, vegetables, herbs, flowers, host educational tours, field trips, classes, and other special events. Check out the café in the farm's silo and try a cone of fresh strawberry soft serve ice cream or a cool glass of strawberry lemonade and take home a strawberry cake or strawberry turnovers.

Annual Event

The Beaver Creek Festival is hosted the last Saturday in October in Downtown Montezuma's Unity Park to celebrate recovery from the Flood of 1994. The festival draws around 3,000 attendees with musical performances, a costume parade, delicious food and craft vendors. The grand finale is the Chamber of Commerce's duck race, which earns the winners a thousand dollars and other great prizes.

www.downtownmontezuma.com

Montezuma Downtown Development Authority

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