

The Majestic Tree Spirits of St. Simons Island

THE STORY OF CORA, PROTECTOR OF THE LOGGERHEADS

Legend holds that a spellbinding beauty named Cora has lived in the depths of the Golden Isles for centuries. Part human, part fish, mermaid Cora has rarely been sighted by islanders. But those who have managed to catch a glimpse of her gliding through the currents never forget her splendor and grace.

Her sun-kissed skin is golden brown, her green eyes sparkle like emeralds, and her chocolate-hued hair falls in ribbons down to her waist. But Cora's true beauty shines from within: she is the gentle protector of the islands' loggerhead turtles. When a mother loggerhead lays her eggs on the sand, she hums a sweet song only her babies can hear. When the babies are ready to hatch, Cora waits at the shoreline. She hums their mother's song, patiently guiding them to the water.

When the hatchlings reach her, Cora leads them out to sea to begin their new lives. Along the way, she guards them from fishing nets, teaches them to become strong swimmers, and shows them how to eat conchs and crabs. When they've become independent enough to find their own ways, Cora leaves the turtles to await the next group of hatchlings.

CARVED ART

If you look closely at some of the majestic oak trees that cover St. Simons Island, it's possible to find one gazing back at you. Either peering out from the trunk or perhaps from the stub of a long-vanished branch, the unmistakable image of a weathered face would be one of the island's 20 commissioned Tree Spirits. Using gouges and a mallet, sculptor Keith Jennings began carving these beloved creatures in 1982. In more recent years, he has collaborated with his talented son Devon to add to Island's unique natural art collection.

While there are eleven tree spirits in public areas, the most popular is the majestic Mermaid Tree Spirit at the Golden Isles Welcome Center.



There are eleven tree spirit locations on public property. Keep searching because these mysterious creatures continue to surprise us... who knows where they will show up next!

- 1 GOLDEN ISLES WELCOME CENTER**
529 Beachview Drive
Main parking area, west side
- 2 QUEENS COURT**
437 Kings Way
Located on west side of the pool
- 3 VILLAGE INN & PUB**
500 Mallery Street
In front of Inn entrance on street
- 4 MALLERY PARK/PARK AVE.**
Park Avenue - Near Baseball Field
Large tree in parking lot entrance
behind fence, east side
- 5 KING'S PARK/PARK AVE.**
Mallery Street & Park Avenue
Behind the basketball goal
- 6 KING & PRINCE BEACH & GOLF RESORT**
201 Arnold Rd., just past The Cottage
- 7 GOLDEN ISLES OLIVE OIL**
306 Redfern Village
- 8 REDFERN VILLAGE**
Across from Gnat's Landing,
look up
- 9 ST. SIMONS LAND TRUST**
1810 Frederica Road
Main driveway, north of front door
- 10 MAGNOLIA MANOR**
101 Heritage Drive
1st right and 3rd tree on the right
- 11 GASCOIGNE BLUFF PARK**
At the south end of Arthur J. Moore Drive
Along dirt road by river picnic area

SOME ADDRESSES ARE APPROXIMATE VICINITIES



Snap a photo and tag us on Instagram or Facebook @goldenisles