



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.

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



There are nine 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

6 REDFERN VILLAGE
310 Redfern Village
Across from Gnats Landing, look up

3 VILLAGE INN & PUB
500 Mallery Street
In front of Inn entrance on street

7 ST. SIMONS LAND TRUST
1810 Frederica Road
Main drive way, north of front door

4 MALLERY PARK
Park Avenue - Near Butler Field
Large tree in parking lot entrance
near baseball fields, east side

8 MAGNOLIA MANOR
101 Heritage Drive
1st right and 3rd tree on the right

5 MALLERY PARK
Mallery Street & Park Avenue
Behind the basketball goal, look east

9 GASCOIGNE BLUFF PARK
At the south end of Arthur J. Moore Drive
Along dirt road by river picnic area

SOME ADDRESSES ARE APPROXIMATE VICINITIES

Goldenisles.com