

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, Cora has rarely been sighted by islanders. 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 eleven tree spirits in public areas, the most popular is the majestic Mermaid Tree Spirit at the Golden Isles Welcome Center.



GOLDEN ISLES WELCOME CENTER

529 Beachview Drive
Main parking area, west side



QUEENS COURT INN

437 Kings Way
Located on west side of the pool



VILLAGE INN & PUB

500 Mallery Street
In front of Inn entrance on street



MALLERY PARK

Park Avenue
Large tree near the baseball field in parking lot entrance behind fence, east side



KING'S PARK

Park Avenue
Behind the basketball goal



KING AND PRINCE BEACH & GOLF RESORT

201 Arnold Road
Just past The Cottage



REDFERN VILLAGE

306 Redfern Village
On the left before the road splits

Tree Spirit Scavenger Hunt

There are 11 tree spirit locations on public property. Keep searching because these mysterious creatures continue to surprise us. Who knows where they will show up next! Some addresses are approximate vicinities.



REDFERN VILLAGE

211 Redfern Village
Across from Gnat's Landing



ST. SIMONS LAND TRUST

1810 Frederica Road
Main driveway, north of front door



MAGNOLIA MANOR

101 Heritage Drive
First right and third tree on the right



GASCOIGNE BLUFF PARK

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