Tree Spirits: A Treasure Hunt

Once upon a time (the early 1980s to be exact), a skilled craftsman named Keith Jennings set out on a mission to leave his mark on St. Simons Island. With woodworking tools in hand, Keith meticulously carved intricate faces into several centuries-old live oak trees along St. Simons Island. Aptly named Tree Spirits, these faces are all unique and their stories are left to your interpretation.

Legend has it that these faces represent sailors lost at sea. “Not so,” says Jennings. He works with each tree’s soul. “The trees do it all,” Jennings said. “I don’t have that much to do with it. The wood speaks to you.” Perhaps one is the weathered face of a sailor returning to the island after a long journey at sea; another could be a loving grandmother forever immortalized into the tree, gazing peacefully at those who wander by.

Spend an afternoon searching for the tree spirits and come up with your own stories along the way.

There are more than 20 Tree Spirits engraved on St. Simons Island. Many are on private property; however there are seven in public areas waiting for you to find them.

Happy hunting!

Map:

1. **Golden Isles Welcome Center**
   529 Beachview Drive
   Main parking area, west side

2. **Mallery Park • Baseball Field**
   Park Avenue - Near Butler Field
   Large tree in parking lot entrance

3. **Mallery Park • Basketball Court**
   Mallery Street & Park Avenue
   Behind the basketball goal, look east

4. **Redfern Village**
   310 Redfern Village
   Across from Gnats Landing, look up

5. **Magnolia Manor**
   101 Heritage Drive
   1st right and 3rd tree on the right

6. **Anderson Fine Art Gallery**
   3305 Frederica Road
   Large tree in front of art gallery

7. **Gascoigne Bluff Park**
   At the south end of Arthur J. Moore Drive
   Along dirt road by river picnic area

SOME ADDRESSES ARE APPROXIMATE VICINITIES

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