

Thong Tree

This 1800's era GPS System was made of wood

Indian tribes in this region ingeniously pioneered trails and avenues by marking certain trees in the forest to designate areas that had water sources, shelter and safety, medicinal herbs, burial sites, villages, and hunting spots.

Travelers from the different tribal groups used the Thong Tree to aid in their survival. The 'Thong' was a forked branch that was used to form the contorted shape in saplings. It was easy to form and could be done with a stone axe and two large "Y" shaped fork branches.

The White Oak tree was used because it was flexible and hard. They drove a forked branch into the ground, then forced the small, pliable trunk through the fork to form the bend. The other forked branch was placed over the trunk about three feet from the crown of the tree and the stone axe was used to pound the prongs into the ground.

The Indian Thong Tree at Woodland Mead Park has been officially authenticated by the Mountain Stewards of Georgia. There are more Indian Thong Trees in this area. Look for them as you explore our region.



Fairfield Bay Historical Complex

Log Cabin Museum

- Contains permanent and changing exhibits of treasured times from the past.

The Log Cabin

- Constructed from local stone and log.
- Shows home life in the mid to late 1800's.
- Children in this period had many chores to do and Sarah Long represents one child of this family.

Indian Rock House Cave

- Natural cave served as a tribal meeting place for local Indians.
- Indian Rock House is listed on the National Historical Registry.
- Short walking trail to take you to the cave and the nearby bluff.

American Totem Pole

- The American Totem Pole is one of the three unique carvings by our local craftsmen, the Woodcarvers Unlimited.

Directions to Complex

From Hwy. 16 - Enter on Snead Drive, then follow signs to the Indian Hills Complex.

From "the Mall" - Turn south on Dave Creek Parkway, then left on Woodlawn Drive and again left onto Snead Drive.

The Historical Complex shares the parking area for the Indian Hills Golf Course.

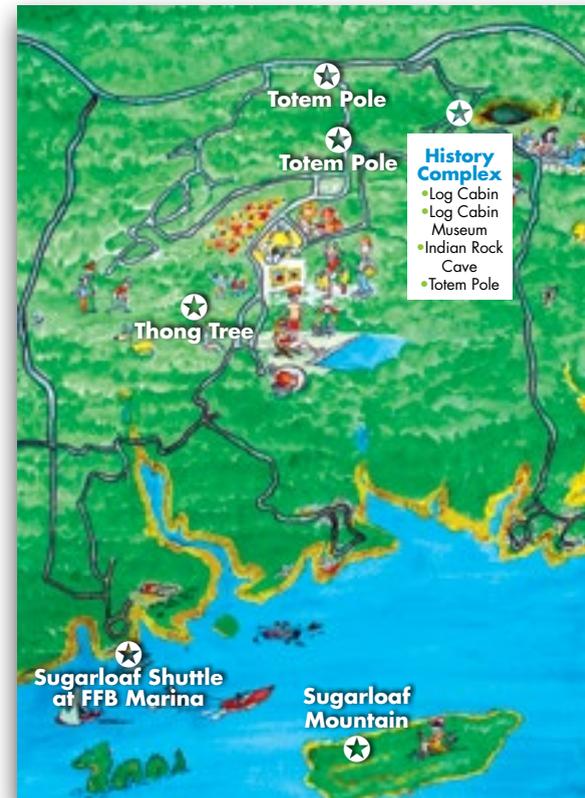
Fun Fact

The Hot Air Balloon Rock next to the Indian Rock Cave is one of many "Living Rocks" throughout the Bay.



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Old Log Cabin and Museum



The Old Log Cabin gives us a taste of home life in the late 1800's

This log cabin, believed to be from around 1850, was moved to its present location atop Indian Rock Cave in the 1950's.

The fireplace was constructed from local stone with a mantle of rosewood walnut and pine. The original "trundle-style" bed, complete with a corn shuck mattress stands against one wall.

A variety of tools and household items can be seen along with clothing and toys, a loom and a weasel or yarn winder.

Contents of the museum range from fashions and jewelry from the past, stuffed local birds and animal specimens, a "rollomatic", a colonial American flag and many communication devices.

Also included is a Metaces and Mano (Mortar and Pestle) was found in the golf course and has been documented to be around 4000 years old.



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Sugarloaf Mountain

Sugarloaf Mountain has long been a destination for hikers, lake enthusiasts and more recently 'geocachers' from all over

Sugarloaf Mountain is home to one of the first national scenic trails. Built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on an island in the middle of Greers Ferry Lake, the one-mile trek to the top rewards visitors with panoramic views of the Ozarks.

Exactly where the mountain first got its name is a question no one can answer today. The Indians called it Tonawanda or Ton-Wan-Dah. And from the top of Ton-Won-Dah with its sparse growth of wind-stunted cedars and gnarled scrub oak they could see for miles in every direction. The Indian name, as tradition has it, was that of a family of renowned arrow makers. An abundance of flint chips and imperfect arrow heads remained on the mountaintop long after the white man arrived to attest to this storied past. The earliest white settlers who pushed through the dense forest may have called it Sugarloaf because of the resemblance in shape to the loaves of unrefined sugar in use at the that time. The survey party that was surveying the Louisiana Purchase in 1819 took note of the feature "encountered Sugar Lofe (sic), a well-known landmark". Presumably Indians and early day travelers on the nearby Little Red River had used it as a landmark.



Shuttle service to Sugarloaf Mountain is available; please call 501.884.6030 for more information.



American Totem Poles

The totem pole was dedicated July 4, 1992



The unique American Totem Pole was carved by the Woodcarvers Unlimited Club of Fairfield Bay to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Bill of Rights. The American Totem Pole was carved from Arkansas Red Cedar log contributed by a local logging firm. The woodcarvers divided into teams who, over a year's period, carved and painted the symbols on the historical totem.

- Hands of the Creator: Freedom of religion
- Bill of Rights: 200th Anniversary
- Scroll-We The People: The Constitution
- American Eagle: National Bird and Colors
- Liberty Bell: Symbol of Independence 1776
- Clasped Hands: Melding of Races in USA
- Minute Man: First Line of Defense
- Statue of Liberty: Liberty Enlightens the World
- Industrial Factory: Industry's Contribution
- Woodcarvers Unlimited Logo

Fairfield Bay is home to 3 hand-carved Totem Poles.

Did You Know?

Greers Ferry Lake (Dam) was dedicated by President John F. Kennedy in 1963, and was his last public appearance before his fateful trip to Dallas.



Indian Rock House Cave

The sandstone cave measures 100 feet across its opening, 50 feet high and 97 feet deep

On the National Historic Registry, this beautiful natural structure sheltered primitive people as far back as 1000 BC and more recently served as a tribal meeting place for the Indian people of this area.

Natural springs flow along the rear of the cave and have hollowed out this grotto throughout the centuries. Shifting boulders have created secondary rooms and tunnels running behind the cave giving exit on the other side of the bluff.

Many petroglyphs indicate the presence and activities of large groups encamping there, including the Quapaw - one of twelve Dakota tribes who overran the mound builders who had long inhabited this area. Many of the glyphs etched in the rocks were determined to have been made during the difficult winter of 1776 when Indians from the Cherokee, Shawnee and Delaware nations used Indian Rock House as a refuge during the 16 days of freezing weather. The last glyphs appear to be dated 1828.

Another great piece of history at this cave came in 1542 when de Soto visited the Indians seeking the Fountain of Youth. Continue your adventure on the Indian Rock Cave Trail.

