

# Georgia

**DAY One Hundred-Four Statesboro to Baxley sort of ~107 km  
Nov 22 Thursday D 107 km M ? A 18.4 T7h total 8381.05 km**

**Happy Birthday 63 to my sister Jessie!** You Old woman you! **Happy Thanksgiving to all our American friends**  
I give thanks that my best buddy wanted to and made this trip with me .

**Wind** head wind from the west and south some protection when tall trees

**Temp** 15C up to 20C

**Road Condition** Good with shoulders on and off

**Food: Breakfast** great bananas/apples/cottage cheese; Ken his cheese sand too

**Lunch** Sandwiches at Anderson's Church Weird sort of Outdoor kitchen has hoses for water, spaces in middle of table top as if to rinse off, plug ins at the ends and drains underneath into sand yet tables are set into concrete floor Shelter ~30' x 100' in size Wonder what a church uses this for when they only have 2 services a month.

**Supper** yet to be had

**Accommodation UGLY American was found!** Dean's RV Park turned us away... on bikes... ....sent us to the boat landing with a comment... you do have a "45" don't you! I will be sending him an email when I next get on line The park is very nice with a huge shelter that we set up in "without spikes" [his wife thought we would puncture the water lines... what does she think we hold our tent down with railway spikes?] On inspection it has a toilet block with running water that I didn't touch as they have had a drought and who knows if it is potable, flush toilets that needed servicing, but not grose and the light bulbs were burnt out... other than that there were yard lights, picnic tables and a shelter and it was free!



View of river from Deans Boat Launch by Baxley

**Overall :** Well day started off not too well as our directions mis directed us and we went out to the state hwy and back so +10k right there. Got back on route to Reidsville and headed out SR 56 looking for CR 180... never found it! There seems to be a lack of paved roads. So off we went to Hwy 1 and then down ... found a rest stop [no bathroom] so went off route to Deans RV Pk to be turned away because we are an “on the ground tent” and might puncture the underground lines? Go figure.... Then we were told they had no toilet house so to go just towards the river to the boat launch where there is a dirty bathroom... oh thanks and Happy Thanksgiving to you too! Anyways we will really need showers tomorrow! Big time!

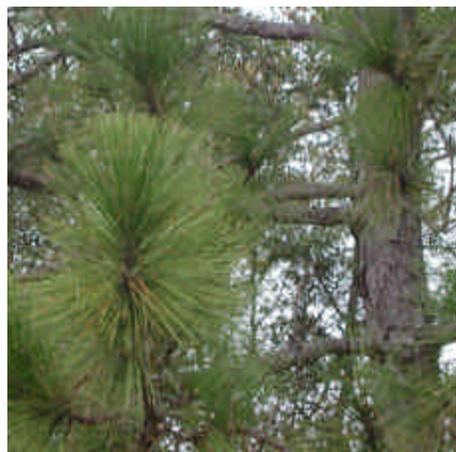
In Reidsville the IGA was closed for thanksgiving so we are short of breakfast once again but we will get going early to Baxley. Interesting... the Dollar Store was open and there were 3 school buses of Spanish speaking men buying all kinds of weird stuff like stuffed animals and goodies... they were at a instant teller getting cash and then later at a beer store... at the \$ store the “black” woman had very derogatory comments when I asked here where they were from... interesting that Negroes were so oppressed and this is how she treats another minority... very pregidice. They must be working in the fields or forestry as they had really muddy boots on... no attempts to speak to us other than “ola” They seemed nice enough.. lots of signs for “western union” “money orders” so they can send money home I guess.



Interesting wooden homes and barns all over South Carolina and Georgia. Haven't seen any log houses. Very nice warm night Ken's zipper for his side of the tent continues to cause trouble! Will take the tent to Edmonton to see if the store we bought it in is still in business! Mosquitos chased us into the tent! Nov 22

As soon as we crossed the boarder into Georgia we noted the ditches were cleaner and the yards cleaned up. Still older mobiles, but no piles of tires, old chairs, etc in yards. More pride in ownership of the land. We saw a woman and her ?son in a ATV going in the ditch and picking up all the garbage. A fellow told us that South Carolina is a very poor state and he used a term “Hisads” for East Indians I don't know if that is dirogitory but he was saying they used to buy up old motels and stores but now buying expensive hotels and gas stations etc More upscale businesses, doing away with the small land marks like his corner store.

I don't know what these pine trees are with 8 – 10 inch needles and a bright green color.





Someone asked us “are you glad to be in the South now... people are much more friendly. No we have been amazed as to the friendliness of everyone in the 15 states we have been in. It has been a real geography lesson and cultural. The number of churches blows me away... United Methodist takes the prize for the most we see, lots of Baptist, some Catholic, JW, New Reborn ie Church of God Seventh Day Adventist, Free Church, Episcopalian , This one church was really strange yesterday... the table set up in their shelter had us really wondering seems like a “gleaners” set up.

**DAY One Hundred-Five Baxley GA to Douglas General Coffee StatePk 88.31 km**  
**Nov 23 Friday D 88.31 km M 41.6 A 17.2 T5h08 total 8469.36 km**

**Wind** No wind in am...straight out of the North... slight tail wind until Alma then side wind

**Temp** Cool morning... +1C 15C by afternoon... cooling down rapidly by 1800h

**Road Condition** Good roads with slight hills When finally got a good shoulder of 2ft ended up with a 1ft rumble strip! Drivers ignorant of bike travellers

**Food: Breakfast** Fig Newtons [Dad's favorite] then off to Baxley for pancakes/French Toast

**Lunch** Nicholis school ground Nice Tomato& Avocado buns

**Supper** Kelly Kettle once more Mashed Potatoes and Chili beans

**Accommodation** General Coffee State Park Very nice sites all with water and power Nicely spaced and treed sites Lots of people in camp as Thanksgiving week. Lots of locals going hunting and just out with their families. Hosts are Canadians from Thunder Bay Ontario Have been Hosting here since 2002

**Overall:** Rained overnight. Trucks came and looked at the river level and left all thru the evening and then first thing in the morning they started coming again. A fellow came with his boat at 0630. He said it rained just enough to put in but you still had to be really careful. Birds chirping Crickets hum. I read a book "Love what you have" so true

Hunters shooting at first light... don't know if they are getting anything but every day we see 6 or 7 deer carcasses in the ditch from road kill. Deer corn, Doe corn, Buck corn... we see it advertised. Finally I asked what it is for.. I thought for burning for heat. No no it is Deer BAIT for hunting. Do we do this... lay out food to entice the deer to come over so you can shoot them? Doesn't seem like Dad ever did that when I went hunting with him... we walked for hours looking for signs and sometimes saw one and sometimes he shot at one, but I don't think I was ever there when he shot a deer. This way of Baiting them and sitting up in a blind waiting for them to come for breakfast doesn't seem like a sport. Animals we have seen... deer with really long white tails; white geese, Canada geese, fighting cocks, alligator, turtles, dead raccoons, posums, fox, snakes, wild turkeys, vulcurs, squirrels++, hawks, eagles, fool hens, horses, cows, pigs, mean dogs, [getting a dog tasser for sure] No huge cattle ranches or feedlots. Some puppy mills where they are raising dogs in cages. Less flag wavers down here, no "support our troops" signs now, more "where will you spend Eternity?" "Jesus saves" Womens daily devotional in the wash house of the campground.

I was still in disbelief this morning that someone could turn away cyclists especially on Thanksgiving! This is a bigger holiday to them than Christmas. A fellow came from a house just above our little "home site" and wanted to know where we were from and going to . He suddenly asked us "Are you Christians?" Seemed strange but this is definitely the Bible belt There is a church of some kind every mile and on every major corner if one church has an add... 2 others do too.. really strange. They also are not sutle "

Changed our route: The road Ken had planned us to go on is "sand" and on narrow tires very wash boardy and way to soft to travel. Went Hwy 1 to Baxley which was fine Stopped along the way at the first service station just to warm our hands [& feet] and spoke with a man who suggested a restaurant in Baxley that had nice Down Home Cooking [B&K's] He has lived in this area most of his life.. he and 31 cousins inherited a piece of property 3700 Acres which they just sold for a timber reserve. Anyways we headed off for breakfast and when we went to pay " You'all done been taken care of"... he had covered our bill... very nice! He works for the local paper and took our picture so he will send us a copy... won't be real flattering I had on 4 layers of coats I was so cold!

Went on to Alma which has an IGA a little over priced but lots of veggie choices! The "Dollar General" store seems to be taking over down here as far as \$ stores... picked up some snacks... a 1 lb fruit cake for \$1 How can one make it for that... mind you it didn't have a lot of fruit but was very taste.

Replant Pine trees with needles 8 – 10 " long and a brighter green.

Turned into the wind to Nicholis where we had lunch and on to the State Park...so far we have noted that Georgia is a little hillier than South Carolina. Seems a little more prosperous and has maybe better farm land as back into the cotton plantations. We asked what the Spanish speaking men are working at and it is in ONION fields around Reidsville.



Kens sand road



The cotton fields are much more productive here in Georgia



Me and my shadow along the way

**DAY One Hundred-Six Douglas General Coffee StatePk to Adel 97 km**  
**Nov 24 Saturday D97.05 km M A 18.7 T5h11 TT 8h total 8566.41km**

**Wind** behind us for once then from the side end of day

**Temp** cold +2 in am stayed in bed and left at 0800 but still no warmer; 12C by pm so not tank tops today

**Road Condition** Good with a shoulder for part of the day I wish they would do away with the rumble strip! Some hills but nothing more than 5% 14Deer carcasses!

**Food: Breakfast** ate better with yogurt, banana and apple

**Lunch** Picnic in Nashville in the city park by the fountain

**Supper** Made spaghetti and red sauce for ourselves... yummy

**Accommodation** We looked at the look of coming rain and decided we wanted a day inside, so Motel 8

**Overall** : We headed off from the state park clear and cool morning. Before leaving another camper came over and was telling us that the town of Douglas has a huge crime problem and even the police are crooked... I'm not sure if she was warning us or what but we made it thru with no incidence. It did appear a little rough the area we went thru, but we ended up going by some pretty upscale houses along a golf course [that must have not had any water for months].

Willacoochee was a good ride from Douglas. No services in between.

Nashville was thru the farm land which seems to have improved in productivity. There was a lot of cotton, soya and 2 crops yet to be identified. One might be tobacco and the other might be sesame seeds. Some Blue berry farms, vineyards [vines look really old] and market gardens. Dogs continue to chase us but most seem to be taught to stop at the edge of the road.

Adel is only 4 miles from the State park, but we decided to be inside tonight. All Services available here. We went to a Budget Inn... the woman came to the door.... Removed a chain locking the office door and said "ya what do you want" about then I didn't want to stay there! The motel 8 across the street looked much better. We shopped and made supper in.



Interesting flag combo



Maybe this is tobacco?





And what is this?



Is this Seseme seeds?

**DAY One Hundred-Seven Adel to Thomasville 69.4 km**  
**Nov 25 Sunday D69.4 km M A18 T5h TT h total 8635.81km**

**Wind** out of the east blowing us west

**Temp** left in slight drizzle at about 2C Didn't get really warm all day 10C

**Road Condition** Quiet with only 4 deer, 1 pig, 2 Armadillos and 1 skunk!

**Food: Breakfast** included with hotel, juice, toasted bagel and crème cheese

**Lunch** arrived in camp and had hoggies

**Supper** Pizza Hut.... Serves more stuff than ours... wings, ribs and has salad bar

**Accommodation** City of Roses RV Pk \$10 Ken says the men's BR is worst he has seen! Kept up by another tent, has no car, but has a TV in there accommodation that the bipolar girlfriend wanted to put in the dumpster! Oh life is grand!

**Overall** : Ride was easy and short with slight rain on leaving and warmed up thru ought the day. The City of Roses RV park is close to downtown so we spent the afternoon looking at the 1900 homes that the Yankees built down here after the Civil war. It's Sunday in the Bible belt and NOTHING is open! No shops and there are lots of antique shops All of downtown closed up tight. Adjacent to the city there are stores [mall] open.



Ponds everywhere and they say they are in a drought?



Cotton Trains



Thomasville mainstreet



Bike security a must



look at this old map in the Geneology building.. BC is part of the USA



The rose bushes are still in full bloom here! Note they are using pine needles for mulch!



This type of notation is on benches and signs everywhere down here, not just on churches.



This is an incredible Christmas tree shaped as a woman, decorated with Peacock feathers at the base of the dress... I didn't look at the price!

**DAY One Hundred-Eight Thomasville Rest Day 0 km**  
**Nov 26 Monday total 8635.81km**

**Wind** Rained.... Poured for about 15 min... told 1 ½ inches came down... they are in a drought so not enough

**Temp** nice at 15C most of day

**Road Condition** Walked 2 ½ miles into town to watch the Christmas Parade. We were in the Pizza Hut for the worst of the storm... like a water fall off the building roof. Walked along the side of the road... no sidewalks... until started to rain again so we visited a Church to sit out the rain.... Went on and were standing under a Palm tree when a lady in a van came along... said she saw us for the past 2 days riding around town and thought she would give us a ride where ever we were going... so nice... gave us a ride down town.

**Food: Breakfast** Fruit

**Lunch** Pizza Hut buffet salad bar so good

**Supper** didn't need any after our lunch pig out!

**Accommodation** City of Roses RV Pk \$10

**Overall** : We walked mainstreet and looked at the inside of the buildings this time.. they were built all in about 1860-1900. Most of them are still owned by original families. The downtown street is mostly restored and very upscale shops or antique shops. The internet café is in a 4 story building that reminded us of the Teglar Building... there was a open stair case that went up and up and up. The whole building was referbed and full of all kinds of businesses.



Liked this neat house the design inspired by a steam boat Built in 1899 by a lumber business owner.

We stayed for the Christmas Parade which was about 45minutes of every possible band or school or business. This is advertised as a retirement town, but there are a lot of children 0-18yrs old. They said 8000 people would go to the parade but I don't think that happened due to the rain prior. Rain held off and we were not looking forward to walking "home" in the dark... we walked farther along the parade route and ended up talking to a family who offered us a ride home. They have friends who cycle tour somewhat so I gave them my card. So sad she was a regular rider herself up until a year ago when diagnosed with MS and is in a wheelchair now. We talked about the whiz wheel trike and I think she is going to look into one. I think there is one reason we came here... to meet her! She was so excited about the possibility of riding a bike and she had looked at "old lady" trikes, but didn't think it was really a bike. I agree as they are really heavy and cumbersome. Nice to brighten someones day!



Really cute little ones



Lots of dancing girls

Well our little home away from home weathered the storm and only had a few drips in... on Ken's sleeping bag as he left it out... mine on the other hand was bundled away! Not enough to need a dryer. The neighbors on the other hand are in a flood... not nice. They are an interesting couple to say the least... argued last night over a tv and tonight have a wet home. They are from in Florida and came here looking for work. She says this is too small town for her... 40,000 pop. I think it's about right but...

Anyways a good day

# Georgia

**G**ORGEOUS CHILDREN

**R****E**FORESTATION

**L****O**GGING

**R**AIN **R**ELIGION

**G**ARBAGE

**H****I**STORY

**A**GRICULTURE: COTTON, PEANUTS, **S****A**ND ROADS