



# Fort Frederica

*“We are resolved not to suffer defeat – we will rather die like Leonidas and his Spartans – if we can but protect Georgia and Carolina and the rest of the Americans from desolation.”*

— James Edward Oglethorpe, 1742

## An 18th Century British Fort and Town within the Debatable Land

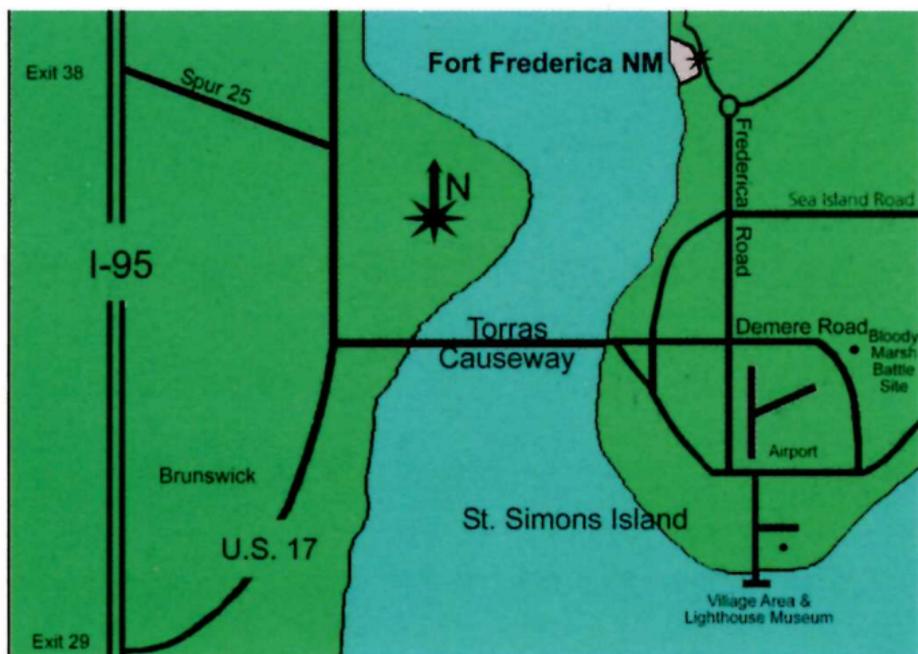
St. Simons Island. An important setting for a momentous struggle. Frederica was a strong place built on the precarious edge of an expanding British empire. Its very existence was a thorn in the side of a declining Spanish empire with claims to the region.

Frederica is a story of dreams, struggle, victory and defeat. Established in 1736, the fort guarded Georgia’s southern frontier. More than a fort, however, the town of Frederica was home to colonists seeking to start a new life. At its peak in the 1740s, some seventy houses lined Frederica’s dusty streets.

Fort Frederica is best remembered today for repulsing a Spanish invasion of Georgia in 1742, yet despite its successful defense of the colony, it was fated to disappear. Born in conflict, ironically its death resulted from the outbreak of peace. Following the conclusion of the war, the garrison was disbanded, commencing the town’s descent into oblivion.

In time, Frederica became little more than ruins, a silent reminder of a struggle for empire and the broken dreams of the early colonists.





**How to get here:**

Fort Frederica National Monument is located on St. Simons Island, approximately twelve miles from Brunswick, GA. From U.S. 17, take the F.J. Torras Causeway to St. Simons Island. At the first traffic light, turn left onto Sea Island Road. Proceed 1.5 miles to Frederica Road and turn left at the traffic light. Follow Frederica Road for two miles and proceed through the traffic circle. The park entrance is located 300 yards past Christ Church.

**Monument Features:**

Fort Frederica National Monument offers a chance to step back into Colonial history. The park offers many activities and a visit should start at the visitor center. It features exhibits that highlight some of the artifacts recovered in past archaeological digs. Hands-on activities and games introduce Frederica's past to visitors of all ages. The park film serves as a good overview of the site's history and the bookstore offers a chance to delve deeper into the story.

Park rangers and volunteers provide programs geared towards exploring the site and its stories. Park activities include self-guided tours, guided tours and historic weapons demonstrations. Bloody Marsh – a detached unit of the park – is located five miles south of the park and commemorates the battle between British and Spanish forces in 1742.

Park facilities are accessible.

**Hours of operation:**

Visitor Center 9:00-5:00 daily  
 Park Grounds 8:30-5:00 daily  
 Bloody Marsh 8:30-4:00 daily

Admission charged

For seasonal park hour changes and special event information contact:

Fort Frederica National Monument  
 6515 Frederica Road  
 St. Simons Island, GA 31522  
 912-638-3639  
[www.nps.gov/fofr](http://www.nps.gov/fofr)