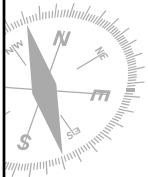


Exploration of Georgia

The Spanish

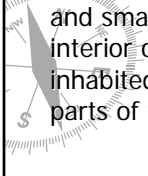


De Soto Expedition

- ▶ In the spring of 1540 an army of some 600 Spanish soldiers under the command of Hernando de Soto marched north from Florida into southwestern Georgia in search of riches.
- ▶ The expedition crossed the Flint River near present-day Newton, visited the chiefdom of Capachequi located along Chickasawhatchee Creek, and then pushed northeast toward present-day Marshallville, where they recrossed the Flint and stopped briefly at a village called Toa.
- ▶ The soldiers then moved east to the Ocmulgee chiefdom of Ichisi, with its capital at the Lamar Mound site near present-day Macon and then to the Oconee River villages of Altamaha, Ocute, and Cofaqui.



- ▶ The initial European exploration of Georgia was carried out in large part by Spaniards, first operating out of colonial bases in the Caribbean Sea and Mexico and later from the city of St. Augustine on the Florida coast.
- ▶ Between 1525 and 1646, expeditions large and small explored both the coast and the interior of Georgia, covering most of the inhabited portions of the Coastal Plain and parts of the lower Piedmont.

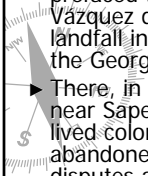


- ▶ The expedition continued east into South Carolina, turned north to cross the Appalachian summit in western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee, and finally dropped south again into northwestern Georgia during July.
- ▶ The army stayed more than a month in the capital of the powerful Coosa chiefdom near present-day Calhoun and then marched south to Itaba (Etowah) near Cartersville before following the Etowah River west to Ulibahali at Rome, and subsequently downriver along the Coosa River to Apica and finally into Alabama.



Allyón Expedition

- ▶ The first documented exploration was carried out along the coastline in 1525 by two ships from Puerto Rico under pilot Pedro de Quejos, who had landed in South Carolina in 1521 on a slaving expedition.
- ▶ This brief reconnaissance of the entire coastline prefaced the subsequent colonial venture of Lúcas Vázquez de Ayllón, whose 600 colonists first made landfall in South Carolina before moving south to the Georgia coast in 1526.
- ▶ There, in an as yet undiscovered location (perhaps near Sapelo Sound), Ayllón established the short-lived colony of San Miguel de Gualdape, which was abandoned just six weeks later, following political disputes and an African slave uprising.



- ▶ The impact of the 1539-43 Hernando de Soto expedition was enormous.
- ▶ Not only did surviving Spanish chroniclers offer their first and last glimpse of pristine Native American chiefdoms across the interior southeastern United States, but also the accidental introduction of European plague diseases apparently resulted in massive epidemic population losses in these same regions.



De Luna Colony

- ▶ In the aftermath of the de Soto expedition the Spanish crown first mounted an abortive missionary effort by Dominican priests under Fray Luis Cancer on the Gulf Coast of the Florida peninsula in 1549.
- ▶ In 1559 they launched a massive colonial venture under Tristán de Luna, when some 1,500 Mexican soldiers and colonists sailed from Vera Cruz to Pensacola Bay, where a hurricane destroyed most of their ships and supplies shortly after arriving.

Other Explorers

- ▶ Angel de Villafane, replaced De Luna, after his colony failed in 1561. Most of De Luna's group returned to Mexico.
- ▶ De Villafane led a recon along Georgia's coastline up to South Carolina.
- ▶ 1564, a Cuban ship under Hernando Manrique de Rojas scoured the coast in search of the abandoned French fort, which they destroyed. That same year French ships visited the Georgia coast from René de Laudonniere's new colony at Fort Caroline near present-day Jacksonville, Florida, but it was Spanish colonists under Pedro Menéndez de Avilés that completed this coastal exploration in the decades after the 1565 founding of St. Augustine, Florida.

- ▶ The colonists moved inland in search of food at a town called Nanipacana, supplies where quickly exhausted & in April 1560, Luna sent a detachment of 140 soldiers and 2 Dominican friars northward, backtracking along de Soto's earlier route toward the populous chiefdom of Coosa in northwest Georgia.
- ▶ Several of the officers were veterans of the de Soto expedition who had settled in Mexico.

The French

- ▶ In 1562 French sailors under Jean Ribault reconnoitered the coastline before establishing Charles Fort on Parris Island, South Carolina. They later abandoned the fort & the Spanish burned it in 1564.
- ▶ 1564, French ships visited the Georgia coast from René de Laudonniere's new colony at Fort Caroline near present-day Jacksonville, Florida, but it was Spanish colonists under Pedro Menéndez de Avilés that completed this coastal exploration in the decades after the 1565 founding of St. Augustine, Florida.

- ▶ The detachment passed through Apica and Ulibahali before arriving at Coosa, where they spent several months.
- ▶ During this stay a detachment of these men accompanied the Coosa chief and warriors on a military raid against the rebellious province of Napochin near present-day Chattanooga, Tennessee.
- ▶ This helped the Spanish situation with the Indians, allowing them to continue trade relations.

- ▶ Georgia's interior saw no further exploration until 1597, when two Franciscan missionaries and a soldier briefly pushed inland as far as Altamaha and Ocuta near present-day Milledgeville.
- ▶ When Spaniards heard rumors of an overland expedition from Mexico, they sent yet another expedition to these same towns under soldier Juan de Lara in 1602.
- ▶ At least five reconnaissance expeditions were dispatched into the interior Coastal Plain between 1624 and 1628, including two trips under Ensign Pedro de Torres that penetrated as far as central South Carolina.

The Franciscans

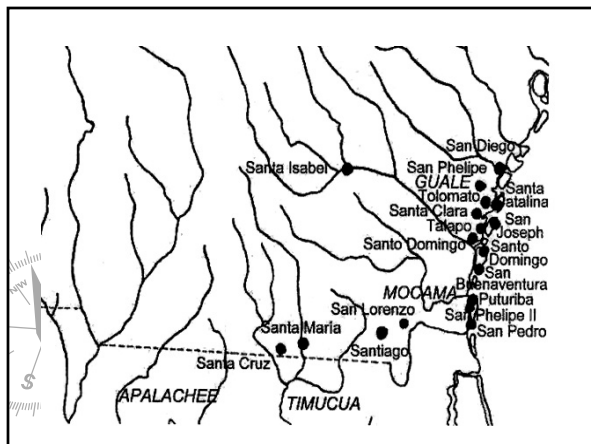
- ▶ In the 1620's – 1640's, Franciscan missionaries explored other populated regions of southern Georgia, establishing missions at Utinahica near present-day Lumber City, Ibihica and Ocone near Folkston, and Cachipile and Arapaja near Valdosta by 1630.
- ▶ The well-documented expedition by Fray Luis Geronimo de Oré in late 1616 skirted the back side of the Okefenokee Swamp before descending the Altamaha River to the coast.
- ▶ Although most of the missions were short-lived, at best, they did map the areas, which would be used later by the English.

The English

- ▶ When the English came to America, the Native Americans of Georgia encountered one of the most profound forces for change: the world economy.
- ▶ European merchants ushered in this new economic system with a commercial trade in dressed animal skins but even more so with a commercial trade in enslaved Indians.
- ▶ The slave trade began in northeastern America and spread quickly. It had a profound effect on the Native Americans of Georgia from its beginning in the first half of the seventeenth century, through the full incorporation of Georgia Indians into the trade by the late seventeenth century, and until English trade interests turned to buying and selling the skins of white-tailed deer in the early eighteenth century.

- ▶ The final Spanish exploratory expedition into Georgia's interior took place in the winter of 1645-46, when Florida governor Benito Ruiz de Salazar Vallecilla led a group of soldiers north from the Apalachee mission province into the villages of the unconverted Apalachicola province along the lower Chattahoochee River in southwest Georgia and eastern Alabama.
- ▶ Though there were sporadic visits to these villages as late as 1695, the Ruiz expedition was the last major Spanish exploratory venture into Georgia.
- ▶ The remaining portions of north Georgia would eventually be explored by English traders and soldiers during the late seventeenth and early eighteenth century, long before ownership of the land was acquired through treaties between 1733 and 1838.

- ▶ At the time of English settlement in present-day Georgia, the Native Americans of the South already were well into a profound process of transformation that had begun when they first encountered other Europeans.
- ▶ One of the first forces for change was epidemic disease. Within a few decades after the conquistador Hernando de Soto and his army of 600 made their way through the region in the mid-sixteenth century, the powerful chiefdoms of the Late Prehistoric Period began to collapse. Archaeologists believe that the demise of these societies was due, in part, to the devastating population loss from disease.



- ▶ In interior Georgia, Muskogee-speaking survivors of the collapse abandoned large areas and began joining together at certain areas of aggregation.
- ▶ One such area centered along the Piedmont stretch of the Oconee River and another along the section of the Chattahoochee River.
- ▶ Native Americans who lived in coastal Georgia and the barrier islands fell under another force for change, the Spanish Missionaries.
- ▶ After the establishment of St. Augustine, Florida, in 1565, Spanish Catholic missionaries labored among the Guale and Mocama of the Georgia coast and the Apalachee and Timucua of present-day north Florida.

- ▶ The English continued to settle the New England area, & slowly spread southward into the Carolina's.
- ▶ By 1670, they are well established on the Ashley River in South Carolina, founding Charles Town using the Charter granted by King Charles I in the 1620's.
- ▶ King Charles II re-establishes the grant & gives it expanded power.
- ▶ Now they must protect their valued interest from the Spanish in the South.