

America's 10 Best Winter Beach Retreats

White sand and warm waters are closer than you think. When winter's chill sets in, escape to one of these laid-back, sun-drenched spots—no passport needed.

By Beth Collins, for YahooTravel.com

[St. Simons Island, Ga.](#)

Average highs of 62/62 in December/January | *(Average water temperatures of 54/51)*



One of four islands that make up Georgia's Golden Isles (a collection of barrier islands just off the southeastern coast), St. Simons Island is known for its historical landmarks, white-sand beaches, and 99 holes of golf. *Courtesy Brunswick and The Golden Isles of Georgia*

One of four islands that make up Georgia's Golden Isles (a collection of barrier islands just off the southeastern coast), St. Simons is known for its centuries-old moss-draped oak trees, historical landmarks, white-sand beaches, and 99 holes of golf. Cars are allowed on the island, but the leisurely pace of life here will make you want to stay away from anything with a motor. Instead, rent a beach-cruiser bike from Ocean Motion Surf Co. and pedal your way past King and Prince Beach, plantations, the lighthouse, and Christ Church, originally built in 1820. The ride covers about 14 miles, and there are plenty of stops to admire the scenery, so allow at least a half day.

Also featured in Ms. Collins's post were the following:

- *Rincón, Puerto Rico*
- *Kauai, Hawaii*
- *Long Key, Florida*
- *St. Petersburg, Florida*
- *Laguna Beach, California*
- *Grand Isle, Louisiana*
- *San Diego, California*
- *Orange Beach, Alabama*
- *Galveston, Texas*