

SECTION I COMMUNITY PROFILE CAMDEN COUNTY, GEORGIA

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GEOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION

Located on the Atlantic Ocean Coast in the southeastern region of the state, Camden County has a population of approximately 44,000. It is the seventh-largest county in Georgia, encompassing approximately 689 square miles, including the Cumberland Island National Seashore. This ideal southern location gives Camden County a mild sunny climate with an abundance of palm trees and huge water oaks.

Its coastal location, with easy access to the metropolitan areas of Savannah, 109 miles to the North, and Jacksonville, FL, 42 miles to the south, adds to the county's appeal. Camden is 20 minutes from Jacksonville International Airport, 30 minutes from two major seaports, is located on Interstate 95 and the CSX rail line, and is home to the Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base.

The county's temperate climate boasts an average 66.8 degrees in January and an average 81.8 degrees in July.

www.camdenjda.com

COUNTY, CITY and COMMUNITY PROFILE

Camden County is home to three cities: Kingsland, St. Marys and Woodbine. The unincorporated county area has a population of about 18,180. Camden County is a growing community with a low cost of living, an excellent school system and a variety of opportunities for the entrepreneur. The county's south end continues to grow rapidly, bringing more services and amenities to its residents. The north end still has large tracts of undeveloped land, laced with waterways, marshes and wetlands.

Kingsland (population 10,510) is located three minutes north of the Florida border and is situated between the Cumberland Island National Seashore and the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. The most traveled of Camden's cities; Interstate 95, U.S. Highway 17, State Route 40 and the Seaboard Coast rail line all intersect within her city limits.

www.visitkingsland.com

St. Marys (population 13,760) located on the St. Marys River is the gateway to Cumberland Island National Seashore. As a tourist destination, historic St. Marys offers visitors three museums; historic Orange Hall, St. Marys Submarine Museum and the Cumberland Island National Seashore museum. Other attractions include the Family Aquatic Center, the Gilman Memorial Waterfront Park, riverwalk, and a floating dock for short-term boat moorings.

www.stmaryswelcome.com

Woodbine (population 1,220) nestled on the bank of the Satilla River is the county seat for Camden County. Woodbine is one of 56 Georgia cities that have been named a Better Hometown Community. As home to the Bryan-Lang Historical Library, the city serves as the keeper of the county's history.

Cumberland Island National Seashore located only a few miles from St. Marys, is accessible by a 45 minute boat or ferry ride. In 2002 more than 41,400 persons visited the serene beauty of this undeveloped barrier island. Cumberland Island boasts a rich history and habitat influenced by Timucuan Indians, English and Spanish settlers, the low country plantation-era, slaves, and industrialists (Andrew Carnegie). The Travel Channel will feature Cumberland Island as America's best Wilderness Beach in March 2005.

www.nps.gov/cuis/

Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base is home to seven Trident ballistic missile submarines. The Trident Refit Facility and Trident Training Facility support the submarines and their crews in maintaining war-fighter readiness. Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base is a major part of our community with almost 5,000 active duty members, 200 reservists, 2,500 civilian workers and 1,500 contract workers.

www.subasekb.navy.mil

Other links:

<http://www.georgiamagazine.com/>

GOVERNMENT

The Camden County Board of Commissioners consists of five members elected by popular vote, each representing one of the five districts in the county. Commissioners are elected for four-year terms with an election being held every two years to provide continuity of the county government. The Commission Board elects a Chairman and Vice Chairman on an annual basis. The board oversees the unincorporated areas and also addresses issues that affect the entire county.

The board of Commissioners meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month.

www.co.camden.ga.us

Camden County's cities, Kingsland, St. Marys and Woodbine, elect their own mayor and city council. The mayors and councils are elected at large for four-year terms. The city of Kingsland has four council members, St. Marys has five council members, and Woodbine has four council members.

www.kingslandgeorgia.com

www.ci.st-marys.ga.us

cityofwoodbine@tds.net

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

Largest Employers in Camden County:

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Approximate Employees</u>
Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base	8,940
Camden County Schools	1,700
VT Griffin Services	700
Express Scripts	650 (projected)
Lockheed Missiles	430
Wal-Mart	425
Camden County Government	350
Camden Medical Center	260

Funded by Camden County, **The Joint Development Authority (JDA)** promotes economic growth throughout the county. The JDA is governed by a board of 9 directors appointed by the county and the three city governments.

The JDA has developed a 164-acre business park, including a 51,200 square-foot building, with direct access to Interstate 95. Other sites, including large tracts of land, are available for business development throughout the county.

www.camdenjda.com

Tourism

A main component of economic development is tourism employing over 700 citizens in Camden County. Located between Cumberland Island National Seashore and the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, and strategically located along the I-95 corridor, Camden County attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors year round. From the St. Marys waterfront, boaters sail the St. Marys River and Intercoastal Waterway. Boaters and kayakers also navigate the Crooked River, Satilla River and Little Satilla River.

www.georgia.org/tourism

The Camden-Kings Bay Area Chamber of Commerce assists new businesses, potential developers and residents with information about Camden County. The Chamber sponsors an annual Business Exposition trade show and Taste of Camden that showcases area businesses and restaurants.

The Chamber's Military-Community Council visits Washington, D.C. each year to present issues of importance to Camden and Georgia legislators. The community has benefited as a result of these visits with substantial funding obtained for specific projects and needs.

www.camdenchamber.com

EDUCATION

The Camden School System boasts 14 public schools with nearly 10,000 students. The system consists of a high school with separate ninth grade center, two middle schools and nine elementary schools.

www.camden.k12.ga.us

The Coastal Georgia Community College located in Kingsland offers two-year degree programs, preparation courses for four-year degrees, technical diplomas, technical certificates, and adult and continuing education. Coastal Georgia Community College also offers customized job training for employees consisting of hands on training at the campus or simulated training via the Quick Start mobilized computer simulation lab.

Georgia's Quick Start (www.dtae.org) program is nationally recognized as providing world-class training for new and expanding industries around the state.

www.cgcc.edu

Valdosta State University and Brenau College have several undergraduate and master degree programs at the Kings Bay Navy Campus. (912) 573-4527 or (912) 573-4574

www.subasekb.navy.mil

HEALTHCARE

The Camden Medical Center is part of the Southeast Georgia Health System. This modern, 40 bed acute care hospital, built in 1993 is located in St. Marys and offers inpatient, outpatient, and 24 -hour emergency services to area residents and military personnel.

Camden Medical Center is committed to providing quality, cost-effective patient care, educational programs, and health promotion and wellness services to meet the healthcare needs of the community.

www.sghs.org