



## State Parks Near Albany, Georgia

Shelly Barclay, studio

While Georgia contains more than 77,500 acres of state parks and historic sites, not one calls the southwestern Georgia city of Albany, the seat of Dougherty County, home. However, if you are visiting Albany, you can choose from among four state parks within 70 miles of the city.

### **Georgia Veterans Memorial State Park**

Roughly 37 miles northeast of Albany is the Georgia Veterans Memorial State Park ([gastateparks.org](http://gastateparks.org)). The site has a military museum that is a nod to the purpose of the park as a veterans memorial. It includes relics from the American Revolution to the wars in the Middle East. You can swim at the sandy beach, fishing for bass, catfish, crappie and bream (new ref.), and boating on the park's Lake Blackshear all year. Other activities include golfing at the park's resort, hiking, picnics, RV and tent camping. You can also rent a cottage or a room at the lodge if you want to stay overnight. (Ref. 1)

### **Reed Bingham State Park**

At Reed Bingham State Park ([gastateparks.org](http://gastateparks.org)) roughly 54 miles northwest of Albany, you can canoe, kayak, fish or motorboat on its 375-acre lake. You will see a variety of birds in the area, including the nation's symbol -- the bald eagle -- and also some American alligators. You can rent a tent site, an RV site with full hookups or even an island campsite, if you are willing to paddle out on the lake for your accommodations. (Ref. 2) You can rent canoes and kayaks from the park and fish the 375-acre lake for bass, bream, crappie and catfish or bring your own motorboat.

### **Kolomoki Mounds Historic Park**

Less than one and a half hours east of Albany, the Kolomoki Mounds Historic Park ([gastateparks.org](http://gastateparks.org)), which dates from 350 to 750 B.C., features the oldest large temple mound in the state. It stands at 57 feet in height, towering over the rest of the landscape, but not diminishing the other mounds. It also has a large excavated site in a museum that you can tour on your visit. While the park derives its name from these historic treasures, you can also RV, tent camp, pioneer camp, boat, fish, picnic, hike -- even over the largest mound, -- play miniature golf and enjoy the playground at the park.

### **Providence Canyon Outdoor Recreation Area**

About 72 miles southeast out of town is the Providence Canyon Outdoor Recreation Area ([gastateparks.org](http://gastateparks.org)). The up to 150-foot deep canyon is the result of man-made erosion. Do not pass beyond the park's fences, as you risk a serious fall, though you can venture into the canyons where trails allow. If you wish to climb in the canyon, you can backpack in and camp on the trail in designated areas. You can even join the Canyon Climbers Club. No lodging for general visitors is available on site, but you can go to nearby Florence Marina State Park ([gastateparks.org](http://gastateparks.org)) for camping and cottage accommodations.

### **References**

[Georgia Department of Natural Resources: Georgia Veterans Memorial State Park](#)

[Georgia Department of Natural Resources: Reed Bingham State Park](#)

[Georgia Department of Natural Resources: Providence Canyon State Park](#)

[Georgia Department of Natural Resources: Kolomoki Mounds Historic Park](#)

[Lake Blackshear Resort: Boating](#)

[Lake Blackshear Resort: Boating](#)

**About the Author**

Shelly Barclay began writing in 1990, focusing on fiction. She has been writing nonfiction articles since 2008. Her work appears on various websites, focusing on topics such as history, cooking, scrapbooking, travel and animals. Before she began writing, Barclay was a line cook for 10 years.