

TOURISM WEEK

WHEREAS: The travel and tourism industry, as the second largest industry in the state, plays a vital role in Georgia's economic prosperity and works to improve the quality of life for all Georgians; and

WHEREAS: Georgia hosted a total of 42 million visitors in 2002, generating \$23 billion in economic impact, 207,100 jobs, \$5.8 billion in tourism-related payroll and \$1.1 billion in state and local tax revenue; and

WHEREAS: Georgia's Visitor Information Centers hosted 13.2 million visitors, completing over 23,000 reservations and producing \$1.3 million in hotel revenue; and

WHEREAS: Our State offers many unique recreational, cultural and educational opportunities for residents of Georgia and visitors traveling to Georgia from around the globe; and

WHEREAS: Georgia provides residents and visitors with unique places, scenes and activities to visit. From the majestic mountains in the north, to the awe-inspiring beaches of our coastline and all the historical, ecological, entertaining and interesting sites in between; and

WHEREAS: During National Tourism week, May 10-18, 2003, our state will be celebrating with special programs, activities, tours and festivals highlighting our diversity. Georgia's tourism regions include: the Atlanta Metropolitan Region, the Colonial Coast, the Classic South, the Historic Heartland, the Magnolia Midlands, the Historic High Country, the Northeast Georgia Mountains, the Presidential Pathways and the Plantation Trace; and

WHEREAS: It is indeed fitting to thank the many people involved with the travel and tourism industry who make Georgia a beautiful, exciting, hospitable and fun place to visit; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 10-18, 2003, as TOURISM WEEK in Georgia and urge our citizens to Stay and See Georgia and to extend a warm, friendly Georgia welcome to those visiting our state.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this second day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand three.

