

## Home

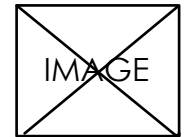


It's easy to see why this is one of Georgia's most popular state park. Chaman, a Cherokee Indian word meaning garden is an appropriate name for this Beautiful park east of the Mississippi River. An one-mile approach trail leads from the park to Briar Castle next to Jumper Mountain, the southern end of the 2,150-mile Appalachian Trail. However, numerous other trails are available for shorter journeys.

A beautiful lodge is popular with guests who can climb to the top of the castle to look over the 4,000 acres of the park, while a 5-mile hike leads to more remote scenery at Hidden Maya Falls named after an infamous, Cherokee Indian princess. There are 3 large lakes that are park of the park where boating and fishing are available. Be sure to stop by the park office (in Briar Castle) to see nature displays, live exhibits and a gift shop.

## Folklore :: Maya And The Ghosts Of The Falls

The ghosts of the falls went in search of a wife and one of them fell in love with Yellow Bear's sister Maya, a Cherokee Indian princess. They brought animal teeth as gifts and the night after the wedding feast they disappeared, taking Maya with them. Yellow Bear did not hear from Maya for an entire year. He then decided to visit the land of ghosts in order to see her again. He went about the villages and among the animals asking for directions, but none would answer him. Finally, he found someone who would guide him there in return for payment.



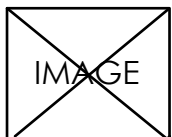
In the land of ghosts, he found Maya standing in a cave behind an ancient dried up waterfall amid piles of bones that were introduced to him as Maya's in-laws. At times the bones would leap into normal human form, but they would return to piles of bones when a loud noise was made. Maya asked Yellow Bear to take her young brother-in-law fishing. The boats of the ghost people looked terrible; they were full of holes and covered with moss. Finding that a shout would turn his fishing companion into a pile of bones, Yellow Bear had great fun. [Folklore Continues..](#)



## Plantlife

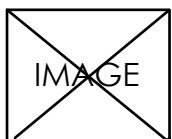
Upland pine forests dotted with persimmon, turkey oak, sweetgum, flowering dogwood and other shrubs are found in the park. Open canopy forests combine different types of pine and dense groundcover such as gallberry, saw palmetto, wiregrass, wild blueberry and wax myrtle. Along the river and large streams in the floodplain area, the forest is dominated by various species of oaks and hickory, red maple, sycamore, magnolia, holly, tupelo and azaleas.

The water level in the flood plain and swamp lakes fluctuates and may even become completely dry. Plants vary according to the water supply. Look for White Mariposa Lily, Milkmaids, Naked-Stemmed Buckwheat, False Baby Stars, Georgia Saxifrage, Two-Eyed Violet, Star Lily and other emergent plants.



**Common Name:** Nymphaea Shirley Bryne  
**Scientific Name:** Nymphaea Shirley Bryne  
**Blooming Time:** Day  
**Flower Description:** Pink petals with bright yellow nectar cup  
**Leaf Description:** Spread of 4 to 5'  
**Comments:** Viviparous; free flowering; tolerates partial shade  
**Website:** Visit Website For More Information

**Common Name:** Nymphaea Pamela  
**Scientific Name:** Nymphaea Pamela  
**Blooming Time:** Day  
**Flower Description:** 8 to 13" sky blue flowers; stellate, round to flat shape; very sweet fragrance; flowers held above the water  
**Leaf Description:** Up to 15" green leaves; new leaves are heavily blotched with purple; spread of 5 to 8'  
**Comments:** Nonviviparous; very free flowering; use in medium to large water garden  
**Website:** Visit Website For More Information



**Common Name:** Yellow Salsify  
**Scientific Name:** Yellow Salsify  
**Blooming Time:** Day  
**Flower Description:** Yellow salsify is a robust, tall annual or biennial weed. It is more or less branched, and the stout stems arise from 30-100 cm tall.  
**Leaf Description:** The leaves are thinly lanceolate, tapering gradually from the enlarged base to a point at the distal end. Individual leaves measure up to 30 cm long.  
**Comments:** Nonviviparous; very free flowering; use in medium to large water garden  
**Website:** Visit Website For More Information

**Common Name:** Alstroemeria  
**Nickname(s):** Alstro, Peruvian Lily, Ulster Mary, Peruvian Princess  
**Origin:** Alstroemeria is named after the Swedish botanist Baron Klas von Alstroemer. The South American flower's seeds were among many collected by Alstroemer on a trip to Spain in 1753. Alstroemerias are all native to North American South and South America. There are about 50 species and they are all in the Amaryllis family. In their native state they are pretty but nothing like what we see today as a cut flower or a garden plant.  
**Availability:** Year round with a wide range of colors, reds, pinks, lavenders, yellows, salmons, oranges, and white.  
**Size:** 9-5 blooms per stem - 3/4 to 1-1/4" across when fully opened  
**Website:** Visit Website For More Information

