

Collector's Journal

A SERVICE OF COLLECTORS ALLIANCE

2018 Cumberland Island National Seashore - Georgia

Forty-Fourth in the America the Beautiful Quarters Collection

Cumberland Island National Seashore in Georgia is featured on the fourth America the Beautiful Quarter issued in 2018. It is also the 44th coin in the overall collection. The year's set of five coins will be completed with the coin for Block Island National Wildlife Refuge in Rhode Island in late 2018.

The reverse of each America the Beautiful Quarter is a unique design that highlights a National Park or other national site in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the five overseas U.S. territories. Coins are issued at the rate of five per year, in the order in which the selected sites became federal property.

The common obverse is the same portrait of George Washington by sculptor John Flanagan that first appeared in 1932 on the Washington Quarter. It was slightly modified in 1999 for the original State Quarters, including the addition of some wording that originally appeared on the reverse, and the modified design was retained for the America the Beautiful Quarters.

The minting period for each coin is limited to about 10 weeks, after which the dies are destroyed and the mintage ends forever. Each coin is struck for circulation at both the Philadelphia and Denver Mints. The two distinct coins are identified by a small "P" (Philadelphia) or "D" (Denver) mint mark under "In God We Trust."

Cumberland Island National Seashore in southeastern Georgia was established in 1972 to preserve one of the largest and most ecologically diverse barrier islands on the Atlantic Ocean coast. To maintain the fragile ecology, the National Park Service allows a maximum of 300 people to visit the island per day. The only way to reach the island is by boat; there are no roads or motorized vehicles in the National Seashore, and the main method of transportation is by foot or bicycle.



Cumberland Island features 17 miles of pristine beaches that are uninterrupted by docks, houses, or other structures. The sand dunes are important nesting spots for loggerhead sea turtles and a vital sanctuary for shore birds.

In the past, much of Cumberland Island was owned by the family of Andrew Carnegie, the legendary industrialist and early 20th century philanthropist, and several of the family's homes are now part of the park. Dungeness mansion is a ruin, but Plum Orchard mansion is restored. In addition, there is a one-room church dating to 1893 that was built by the island's African American residents.

Cumberland Island also includes one of the largest oak maritime forests in the United States, as well as about 150 feral horses.

The reverse of the 2018 Cumberland Island National Seashore Quarter depicts a snowy egret on the edge of a salt marsh within the National Seashore. The U.S. Mint also prepared 12 additional design suggestions, many of which featured the island's wildlife such as loggerhead sea turtles, brown pelicans and blue herons.

The Cumberland Island National Seashore Quarter was released by the U.S. Mint in August 2018.

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