



DAY TRIP TO SCULL SHOALS

From Greensboro · Greene County, Georgia



MILL, LUMBER AND
COMPANY

NATIONAL FOREST HISTORIC SITE

Daylight access and no entrance fee are listed in the Forest Service's February 18, 2025 site notice.

Scull Shoals is a free, daylight-only Forest Service historic site at the end of a gravel road north of Greensboro. You walk among the brick ruins of a mill village that silt from upstream farms put out of business. There is no drinking water and the Forest Service gives no restroom information, so bring what you need. Spend the morning at the ruins, then add lunch in Greensboro and an afternoon at Dyar Pasture, a Forest Service wetland west of town, for a full day.

A SAMPLE DAY

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| ☐ 9:15 a.m. | Leave Greensboro on GA 15 north. Turn right on Macedonia Road, then left onto the gravel Forest Service road at the Scull Shoals sign, about 40 minutes by our route. |
| ☐ 10 a.m. | Walk the village ruins: the brick walls of the old warehouse, once four stories high, and the remains of the mill. |
| ☐ 11 a.m. | Go down to the river and look for the granite pier left from the bridge that the 1887 flood swept away. Stay back from the bank if the water is high. |
| ☐ 11:45 a.m. | Drive back to Greensboro for lunch at The Yesterday Cafe on North Main Street. |
| ☐ 1:30 p.m. | Take US 278 west eight miles, then Greshamville Road and Copeland Road to Dyar Pasture, a 60-acre wetland and bird sanctuary with a short trail. No hunting is allowed there. Wildlife viewing costs \$5 a vehicle. |
| ☐ Before sunset | Head back. Both sites close at sunset. |

On Sundays The Yesterday Cafe lists no hours, so pack a picnic. Coming from Atlanta? It's 92.8 miles and 2 hours 8 minutes by our route; leave by 7:50 a.m. to start at the ruins at 10.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The warehouse walls.** The warehouse once stood four stories high. Step back along the path to fit in as much of the surviving brick as you can.
- **The mill remains.** What is left of the mill itself. Shoot close to show the masonry.
- **The bridge pier.** The granite pier stands mid-river. A longer lens helps from the bank.
- **The river.** The shoals that named the town lie under an estimated 14 feet of silt. A wide shot of the smooth river tells that story.
- **Dyar Pasture.** Waterfowl on the wetland in the afternoon. Bring your longest lens.
- **Drones.** The Forest Service page doesn't mention them. Ask the Oconee Ranger District before you fly.



USGS topographic map, 1972 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	17 mi, about 42 min each way from Greensboro. From Atlanta: 93 mi, about 2 h 08 min.
OPEN	Year round, sunrise to sunset: “Open during daylight hours only.” The Forest Service listed the site as open on October 21, 2026. Its site notice was last updated February 18, 2025.
ADMISSION	No fee and no permit, says the Forest Service.
THE ROAD IN	The Forest Service says to take GA 15 north from Greensboro about 10.9 miles, turn right on Macedonia Church Road for about 2.4 miles, then left on Forest Service Road 1234 for about 1.8 miles of gravel. Friends of Scull Shoals (undated) gives 3.1 miles on FS 1234: keep left and follow the Scull Shoals signs. The agency page doesn’t describe the parking area.
RESTROOMS	The Forest Service says restroom information isn’t available. Plan on none.
FOOD AND WATER	No drinking water on site. The Forest Service lists picnicking, so pack lunch, or eat in Greensboro: The Yesterday Cafe, 114 N. Main St., lists lunch Monday to Saturday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and dinner Thursday to Saturday, 5 to 9 p.m. (its Facebook page).
ON FOOT	The Forest Service calls it a gentle hike along the village ruins and gives no trail length. It doesn’t describe a trail to the prehistoric mounds upstream, so we leave them out.
FLOODS	Flooding and silt are an ongoing problem here (Wikipedia). A forest-wide Forest Service alert of June 18, 2026 warns that flash floods come with little warning and says to avoid riverbanks after heavy rain.
HUNTING	Georgia DNR’s Redlands Wildlife Management Area covers 37,500 acres of Forest Service land in Greene and three neighboring counties. Firearms deer season runs October 17, 2026 to January 10, 2027 for most hunters. The site page says nothing about hunting; wear bright colors.
RULES	Removing artifacts or any other objects is “strictly prohibited.”
CONTACT	Oconee Ranger District, Eatonton: 706 - 485 - 7110, weekdays 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4:30 p.m.
WEBSITE	fs.usda.gov/r08/chattahoochee-oconee/recreation/scull-shoals-historic-site

BEFORE YOU GO

- Check the status with the land manager before you go; conditions change.
- Keep out of unstable buildings and off fenced ruins.
- Leave artifacts where they lie. Removing them can be a crime.
- Carry water, a paper map and a charged phone; signal is often poor.

Coordinates 33.73330, -83.28980 • 33°44′00″N 83°17′23″W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/georgia/scull-shoals/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

Details checked October 2026. Hours, prices and access change: confirm before you go.