



DESTINATION:
GARDENS

LaGrange is one of those warmly welcoming Southern towns that make strangers immediately feel at home. Walking around is easy, part of an almost effortless experience that fits into what many think of as the good life. When you experience this, you know it.

THIS CITY OFFERS VISITORS GLIMPSES OF WHAT once was and a clear view of what now is, particularly with things cultural. LaGrange has a symphony, an outstanding museum, community theater, terrific restaurants, good local retail stores and stately homes. With LaGrange College as the hub the academic community assures uninterrupted vision. Hills & Dales Estate is in the historic district, close to

downtown. Noted for gardens and advanced architectural design, the home and grounds was dedicated to public enjoyment by one of the South's great industrial families. Featuring one of the most widely acclaimed gardens in the Southeast, the vision for everything here came from textile manufacturer Fuller E. Callaway who commissioned the noted architect Neel Reid of the Atlanta architectural firm of Hentz & Reid to design the home reminiscent of an Italian villa. Complementing the beautiful Georgian Italian structure, the Callaway's restored the gardens and carefully added fountains and statuary to enhance the Italianate character of this west Georgia Eden.

When the family inheritance ended, the estate was given to the Fuller E. Callaway Foundation. After renovations and the addition of a very impressive visitor center, the estate opened to the public in 2004. Additional renovations on the second and third floor of the home were completed in 2010. Now visitors tour all three floors of the home, which is furnished

“A visit here is a stroll into the grandeur of architecture, botany, interior design and restrained opulence. Butterflies, songbirds and honeybees thrive among the carefully manicured grounds, among the best-preserved 19th century gardens in the South.”

Visitor information: www.hillsanddales.org.

with family heirlooms and antiques, making it a well-maintained and quite enjoyable museum.

Not surprisingly, Hills & Dales Estate is a popular place for weddings and cultural events.

The facility management is community-oriented with an educational outreach program that includes growing orchids, gardening with herbs, plant propagation and seasonal gardening tasks. Hills & Dales Estate has venerable roots but the presence of families with children enjoying ancient boxwoods, spectacular flowers and fresh air confirms that the Callaway Foundation mission of public enrichment is working well.

18 Written by Doc Lawrence

Lodgings

Immerse yourself in local flora by ending your day at nearby Callaway Gardens. The Southern Pine Cottages are private, spacious, relaxing, and exceedingly charming. Each of the 155 units are tucked away in a gorgeous woodland setting and offer superior amenities in a relaxing, comfortable setting. www.callawaygardens.com