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### **Fifty Fun Facts about Stone Mountain Park**

1. The historical carving on Stone Mountain is the only memorial to a trio of Southern generals AND their horses: Jefferson Davis on Blackjack, Robert E. Lee on Traveler and Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson on Little Sorrel.
2. One of the generals carved in Stone Mountain, Robert E. Lee, is as tall as a nine story building.
3. Jefferson Davis' thumb is the size of a sofa.
4. The carving measures 90 feet tall, 190 feet wide and is 11 feet deep. It spans three acres and is larger than Mount Rushmore.
5. Every three years, a worker repels down the face of the mountain to inspect and repair the carving.
6. Stone Mountain Park is home to the world's largest piece of exposed granite.
7. By calculated "guesstimate," Stone Mountain weighs more than a trillion pounds.
8. Granite originally mined from Stone Mountain was used in the foundation of the Georgia State Capitol building, steps of the east wing of the U.S. Capitol, dome of the Federal Gold Depository at Fort Knox, locks of the Panama Canal, and Frank Lloyd Wright used this stone to build the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo. Because it was constructed from Stone Mountain granite, the hotel was one of the few buildings to survive the powerful 1923 earthquake.
9. Workers in the granite quarry were skilled stonecutters from places such as England, Wales, Scotland, Sweden, Norway and Italy.
10. You can only see one third of the entire mountain. It is estimated that it extends up to seven miles below the earth's surface and into parts of North Carolina.
11. On a clear winter day guests can see more than 40 miles from the top of the mountain.
12. The natural district, the undeveloped area of Stone Mountain Park, is home to a Covered Bridge built in 1892 and originally spanned the Oconee River in Athens, Ga.
13. The natural district, the undeveloped area of the park, is also home to the Grist Mill built in 1867 and moved to Stone Mountain Park from Ellijay, Ga.

14. There are 15 miles of hiking and walking trails in Stone Mountain Park.
15. The Songbird Habitat and Trail in Stone Mountain Park was previously the site for the 1996 Olympics' archery and cycling competition.
16. Stone Mountain Park is a birdwatcher's haven. You can see more than a dozen species including the American Bluebirds, Brown Thrashers, Yellow-Breasted Chats, Indigo Buntings, Goldfinches, Blue Grosbeaks and Field Sparrows.
17. Dogs are welcome at Stone Mountain Park for walks, runs and hikes.
18. Some of the trees on the mountain are Loblolly Pine, Red Cedar, Georgia Oak and Black Cherry.
19. Shrimp live on the top of Stone Mountain Park! The depressions at the very top of Stone Mountain seasonally gather water and can then provide the necessities for life. Shrimp inhabit these pools. They leave tiny eggs behind in the soil when the pool dries up and their young are able to hatch and can be seen when the area receives adequate rains.
20. Stone Mountain Park is a natural habitat for a variety of animals, insects, reptiles and fowl including White-Tail Deer, Red-Tailed Hawk, Monarch Butterflies, Cottontail Rabbits, Black Rat Snakes, Eastern Chipmunks, Painted Turtles, Box Turtles, Tiger Swallowtail, American Toad, Great Blue Herron, Grey Squirrels, Mallard Ducks, Grey Fox and Wild Turkeys.
21. A variety of plants can be seen during all seasons at Stone Mountain Park. Species include Trout Lillies in the late winter, Red Moss, Sandwort, Poolsprite and Quillwort in the spring, Prickly Pear Cactus, Yucca and Dayflowers in the Summer and Yellow Daisies in the Fall.
22. The Confederate Daisy is also called the "Stone Mountain Yellow Daisy" because it is only found in a 60-mile radius of Stone Mountain. It was discovered as a new species in 1946. Beginning in August the mountain is scattered with yellow from this flower, which grows on the granite outcrops in shallow soil.
23. Stone Mountain Lake is a man made lake and took almost two years to fill with water. The water used to create the snow for the annual attraction Snow Mountain comes from and is returned to this lake.
24. Stone Mountain Park land was farmed at one point. The primary crop was corn, primary animals were pigs and most farms had bee hives for honey, scuppernong grape arbors and several fruit trees.
25. The Stone Mountain Park Antebellum Plantation houses farm animals who know how to single file march out of their barn for a fire drill.

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26. The Antebellum Plantation grows an organic vegetable garden for guests and employees.
27. It is believed that a ghost occupies the Thornton House at the Antebellum Plantation which was built in 1784 and is the oldest restored house in the state of Georgia.
28. Stone Mountain Park is home to a custom-made carillon, built as the world's largest by the Coca-Cola Company for the New York World's Fair in 1964.
29. Stone Mountain Park's carillon is 13 stories high and has 732 bell tones.
30. Stone Mountain Park is the only place in Georgia to hear a daily electronic carillon concert. Concerts are at 1 p.m., 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Sundays and at noon and 4 p.m., Monday-Saturday.
31. Mabel Sharp has been the exclusive Stone Mountain Park Carillonneur for 31 years.
32. Between 1942-1945 more than 20,000 amphibious military transport DUKW vehicles known as the "Ducks" were produced and built by women. Stone Mountain Park is the exclusive place to Ride the Ducks in the State of Georgia.
33. On land, Ducks can reach a top speed of 45 miles per hour and in water about six miles per hour.
34. Guests can travel nearly half a mile roundtrip on the Skyride.
35. On July 18, 1996, at 3 a.m., the Skyride transported the Olympic torch to the top of the mountain before the torch headed downtown to Atlanta for the opening ceremonies of the Centennial Olympic Games.
36. On April 26, 1962, the first Stone Mountain train, General II, pulled out of the station. The engine alone weighed 138,750 pounds.
37. The Lasershow Spectacular has been a fixture at Stone Mountain Park for 28 years and is the longest running lasershow in the world.
38. Stone Mountain Park is home to one of the nation's largest family adventure ropes course, SkyHike.
39. The sunken remains of the park's first riverboat, the Robert E. Lee can be seen at the bottom of Stone Mountain Lake. It took nearly three truck loads of granite to make the Robert E. Lee sink.

40. The Summit Skyride and Scenic Railroad will both celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012.
41. Stone Mountain Park is host to more than 25 festivals and special events.
42. Stone Mountain Park's Snow Mountain has the capacity to make 360 tons of snow per day.
43. Stone Mountain Park hosts the nation's No. 1 arts and crafts show, cited by *Sunshine Artist Magazine*, called the Yellow Daisy Festival.
44. Stone Mountain Park has 12 pavilions.
45. Stone Mountain Park Campground is the largest campground in the State of Georgia with 422 sites.
46. Stone Mountain Park Campground is only one of two in the State of Georgia to receive the highest rating of 5W by Woodall's North American Camp Directory. Stone Mountain Park has been awarded this rating eight years in a row.
47. The Evergreen Conference Center and Resort has 31,000 square feet of meeting space.
48. Stone Mountain Inn has 92 spacious rooms.
49. Stone Mountain Park's Golf Course is the first Marriott property worldwide to achieve a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary which enables golf facilities to protect the environment by enhancing natural areas and wildlife habitats.
50. Stone Mountain Park will open a new attraction in Spring 2012 called Geyser Towers. The attraction features multiple levels of suspended rope bridges and net tunnels connecting visitors to towering platforms that overlook a gushing geyser. While climbing through the structure, sporadic eruptions and multiple offshoots of water will splash guests to keep cool, or climbers can challenge themselves to stay high and dry.