

Welcome to Cordele!

Things you should know about South Georgia

Fire ants are common. They build large mounds in the grass and they will swarm all over you if you disturb them. Their stings will set you on fire! If you are allergic to bee stings, be extra careful of fire ants.

Although Cordele is below the famous "Gnat Line", they are not usually bad early in the summer. Just get one of those watermelon-shaped fans from the Chamber of Commerce and wave it in front of your face.

Heat and humidity can really sap your strength. Be sure to stay in the shade whenever possible, wear a hat and sunglasses, and drink plenty of water and other hydrating specific liquids such as Gatorade or Powerade. Also make sure you use plenty of sunscreen and reapply often as required.

Town information

You'll find Cordele is a friendly city, with just about all the amenities you need for a nice stay. The local people and the Chamber of Commerce look forward to our coming, and will go out of their way to help.

Cordele is located at Exits 101 and 102 (same as mile markers) on Interstate 75, about 150 miles south of Atlanta. Exit 102. GA Hwy 257, is an easy way to get to the airport from southbound I-75. Exit 101, US 280, 16th Avenue, is where all the motels and restaurants are. Many contest people stay at the Best Western Colonial Inn, which is just west of I-75, turning it into a little glider pilots' colony. The Colonial Inn has been a strong supporter of the Cordele contest for several decades!

To get to the airport from I-75 Exit 102:

- Turn to the west after exiting onto 8th Avenue/GA 257
- Proceed to the first traffic light, then turn right (Pecan St.)
- Follow this road until it dead-ends
- Turn left (Blackshear Rd.)
- Take the first street on the right (5th Street)
- Proceed until you come to a 4 way stop sign and turn right to the airport entrance.

To get to the airport from I-75 Exit 101:

- Turn to the west after exiting onto 16th Avenue/GA 280
- Go to the traffic light, then turn right (Pecan St.)
- Follow this road until it dead-ends
- Turn left (Blackshear Rd.)
- Take the first street on the right (5th Street)
- Proceed until you come to a 4 way stop sign and turn right to the airport entrance.

Occasionally trains may block the two crossings for long periods of time. Remember, you can always go out to the interstate and go from Exit 101 to 102, or vice versa. There is also an overpass on 5th Street, closer to downtown.

There is a self-serve Laundromat (Bubble Up) located on 16th Avenue between Second and Third Streets, across from Ameris Bank. Their machines take only quarters, so bring a good-sized handful. Change for bills can be made at the adjacent gas station.

The post office is at the corner of 6th Street and 11th Avenue. Most banks have offices with ATMs along 16th Avenue. The Chamber of Commerce office is also on 16th, near downtown.

Where to eat

We can all recommend the following from experience:

Moderate:

- Smoakies Bar-B-Q (Excellent BBQ; the owner, Steve Southwell has been a very loyal supporter of the glider contest for many years)
- Los Compadres: Very good Mexican, outdoor deck.
- El Girasol Mexicana: Excellent, downtown.
- Pancho's Cantina and Grille: Excellent Mexican, located about six miles west of downtown Cordele on Highway 280 (16th Avenue). Can be very busy on Friday and Saturday evenings.
- Cracker Barrel
- 16 East Bar and Grille (pleasantly upscale)
- Tri-County Seafood
- TJ's Italian
- Hachi Sushi and Japanese Grill
- RailHouse Tavern: Burgers, sandwiches, wings, etc., and full bar and nice craft beer selection, located downtown.

Elegant and Sophisticated:

- Daphne Lodge (steaks and seafood) - A contest favorite at Lake Blackshear, located about six miles west of downtown Cordele on Highway 280 (16th Avenue).

Fast Food:

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| • Wendy's | • Taco Bell |
| • Subway | • Pizza Hut |
| • McDonalds | • Firehouse Subs |
| • Burger King | • Zaxbys |
| • Hardees (next to Colonial Inn) | • Arbys |

- Chick-Fil-A
- Sonic

- KFC
- Cook-Out

Delivery

- Pizza Hut
- Dominos

For necessities, there is a 24-hour Super Wal-Mart with groceries. Harvey's, a locally owned grocery store is also in-town on 16th Avenue.

For technical issues, Wells Ace Hardware, located downtown, is very well-stocked, and there is full size Home Depot behind the Cracker Barrel restaurant. If you have cell phone issues, Verizon Wireless has a large store in Cordele (note that Verizon has super coverage in South Georgia while AT&T and T-Mobile historically seemed to have spotty coverage away from the Interstate and larger towns).

If you are golfer and have opportunity, don't miss the Georgia Memorial Veterans Park's golf course, it is a beautiful and challenging course. Some of us will go out there for sure... provided there is a rest day or weather doesn't cooperate... for flying that is!...

Have a great contest!