



GEORGIA CORAL

Yes, there is coral in Georgia, agatized fossil coral, located in extreme Southern Georgia at the Withlacoochee River here in Lowndes County.

“Coral is the outside skeleton of tiny ocean animals called polyps, which live in colonies attached to hard underwater surfaces. When alive, polyps combine their own carbon dioxide with the lime in warm sea-water to form a limestone-like hard surface, or coral. Agatized fossil coral occurs when silica-rich groundwater percolates through the fossil coral and, over time, replaces the limy corals with a form of quartz known as chalcedony. This long process (20 to 30 million years) results in the formation of a “pseudomorph,” meaning that one mineral has replaced another without having lost its original form.

Agatized fossil coral can exhibit a wide range of natural colors, ranging from white and pink to brown, gray, black, yellow, and red. Different trace minerals in the agate create the colors. Agatized coral is found in three main Florida locations: Tampa Bay, the Econfinia River, and the Withlacoochee/Suwannee riverbeds; and in Georgia, the Withlacoochee riverbed and banks. It is Florida’s state stone, so designated in 1979.” *(from Rockhounding Florida)*

