

Media Guide

*Savannah is both hip and historic,
robust and refined.*

Where history resonates into the present day,

and where memories are still being made.

Come see how extraordinary a city can be.



SAVANNAH
EST. 1733

Meet Savannah,

The Sultry Southern Belle

of the Georgia Coast

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Welcome to
Savannah

"Best Place for a Romantic Getaway"

- Atlanta Journal Constitution



Welcome ... Meet Savannah, Est. 1733

Welcome to Savannah, Est. 1733. This celebrated destination has been enticing visitors with her sultry ambiance, striking beauty and old-world charm for centuries. From the elegances of the Landmark Historic District to the festivities of River Street, visitors delight in all this coastal jewel has to offer.

Waiting to charm you with tree-filled squares and perfectly preserved historic building, Savannah mesmerizes you with the past and her unforgettable natural beauty. Situated on Georgia's coast in the mist of the delightful Lowcountry region that includes Tybee Island - Savannah's Beach, Savannah is ready to embrace you with genteel warmth and Southern hospitality.

Savannah was established in 1733, shaped from a wilderness by General James Edward Oglethorpe and a group of English settlers. Oglethorpe favored Savannah with what has become the world-renowned

claim to fame - the city squares, the park-like havens that make such a brilliant place for strolling and relaxing. Enjoy the warm hospitality and relaxed pace of the South on a stroll down the cobblestone streets where century-old live oaks shade magnificent homes and refined churches.

Savannah grew up to be a bustling port famed for exporting cotton, and a city of culture whose architecture blended a variety of styles still in evidence - Federal, English Regency, Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Italianate, Romanesque Revival and Queen Anne.

Today, Savannah beckons to the well-versed, inquisitive traveler - inviting you to experience the splendor and discover the secrets of the South. Although elegant, Savannah remains a bit quirky - some say Savannah even harbors its fair share of ghosts.

A favorite way to see the city is by taking a tour to experience the rich culture and history of Savannah and its breathtaking coastline. More than 20 tour companies are available, specializing in a particular aspect of the city from its homes and gardens to its role in the Civil War to its famous ghost stories. Whether on foot, carriage, boat or bus, visitors are enchanted by the charm, beauty and unmatched hospitality of this gracious Southern belle.

Complementing Savannah's many historic sites are a multitude of award-winning restaurants offering every kind of cuisine from Italian to Asian to Caribbean to French to Moroccan. Lowcountry specialties include flounder tempered with an apricot glaze, red rice, grits, creamy she-crab stew, crispy fried chicken and sweet pecan pie.

Whether you prefer to shop the Southside malls, City Market's specialty shops and galleries or Savannah's antique district on Broughton and Bull streets, have a ball exploring the city and discovering its many hidden treasures is a never ending source of delight.

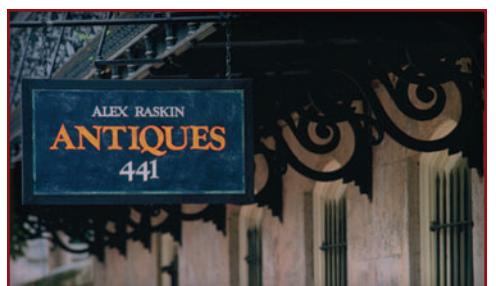
Savannah invites you to stay at the quaint bed-and-breakfast inns or the upscale hotels; to dine at restaurants featuring seafood fresh from the docks or gourmet fare served in 18th and 19th century surroundings. Shop alongside the cobblestones of River Street or amid the vintage storefronts of City Market. Savannah is waiting with nearly 300 years of history - showcased on the streets and squares of the largest historic landmark district in the United States. Among them is an array of impeccably maintained house museums; and via a variety of venues including the oldest standing brick fort in



Georgia, the oldest antebellum railroad repair facility in the country and one of the newest and best aviation museums in the world.

Spend time on the balmy beaches of neighboring Tybee Island exploring the myriad of rivers and creeks that meander through salt marshes, offering unrivaled opportunities for fishing, boating and other water-borne activities.

Savannah goes back to some of the earliest days of American history and those early generations presence can still be felt today. With warm southern hospitality and a casual pace, visitors feel at home in the streets of Savannah and they remember her fondly as being unlike any other place in the world.





Getting Oriented

Being a warm, welcoming city, Savannah is easy to get acquainted with. Here are some things you'll want to know about Savannah and the outlying areas in order to find your way around.

The oldest and best-known section of Savannah - which is part of Chatham County - is the Landmark Historic District. This is the locale of the city's 21 beautiful squares and many of its accommodations, restaurants and shops. It's generally bordered on the north by the Savannah River and Savannah Harbor, on the east by the Truman Parkway, on the south by Victory Drive and on the west by West Boundary Street. Included in this area is the National Landmark Historic District - 2.5 square miles bearing the highest historic district-level designation awarded by the National Park Service. The borders of the Landmark Historic District are the Savannah River, East Broad Street, Gwinnett Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. Also located within the Historic District area are two neighborhoods on the National Register of Historic Places - the Victorian District, which is just south of the Historic District, and the Thomas Square Streetcar Historic District.

Savannah's Midtown area stretches from Victory Drive south to DeRenne Avenue and is bordered on the east by Waters Avenue and on the west by Bull Street. It's the home of the Ardsley Park-Chatham Crescent neighborhoods.

Running east of Waters Avenue to the Wilmington River is the Eastside/Thunderbolt area. Thunderbolt is a fishing village almost as old as Savannah; the Eastside harbors Bonaventure Cemetery and the neighborhoods of Gordonston and Daffin Park-Parkside. Also extending eastward from the Wilmington River is the Islands/Tybee portion of Chatham County.

The huge area south of DeRenne Avenue is the Southside, a shopper's paradise that's also full of recreational opportunities. The Southside is the location of both of Savannah's malls and numerous smaller shopping centers, an abundance of restaurants and motels and a multitude of sports and outdoor venues. The Southside is also where you'll find historic sites such as Wormsloe Plantation, the Bethesda Home for Boys and the charming riverside community of Isle of Hope.

To the west of the Southside, out past the picturesque Forest River and its wide expanse of marshland, is Southwest Chatham, the site of the Interstate 95-Georgia Highway 204 interchange.

Northwest and due west of Savannah loom the fast-growing West Chatham municipalities of Garden City, Pooler, Port Wentworth and Bloomingdale. Also in this area are heavily forested residential communities and one of the Savannah area's top attractions - the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum.



Media Services

"Top 25 Places to Live and Work"

- Outlook Magazine



Media Services

The Savannah Area Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) is the destination marketing organization for Savannah and its surrounding areas.

The CVB offers the following services to members of the media.

Individual Media Press Trips

- Journalists are asked to provide a minimum of two-weeks notice of impending trips to Savannah.
- Journalist are asked to provide current press clippings with byline or assignment letter from editor.

Please note: The Savannah CVB does not provide airfare. Sunday through Thursday trips are preferred and encouraged.

Community Liaison and Research Services

- Assist in the arrangement of local experts and locations.
- Assist in the research and development of background materials for assignment.

Visual Materials

- 300 dpi electronic images and captions available at www.SavannahVisit.com or on CD by request.
- Images for download available from the Georgia Department of Economic Development Web site, www.georgia.org.
- B-roll footage of Savannah available in High-Definition, BETA and DVD-PRO formats by written request.

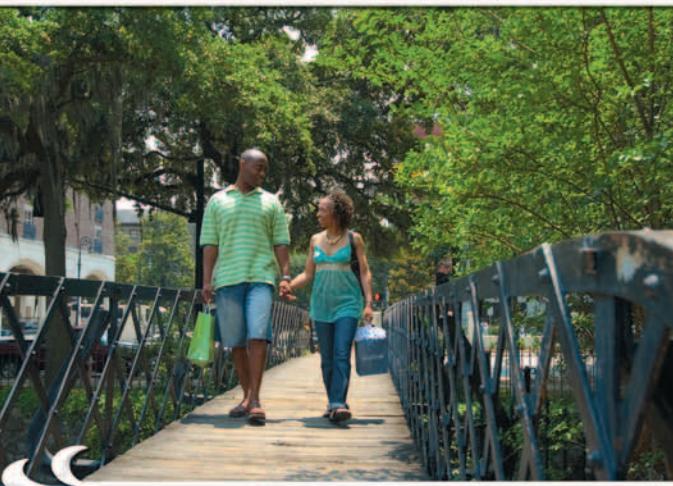
Savannah Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

Public and Media Relations Department
101 East Bay Street
Savannah, GA 31401
Phone: 912.644.6405 or 1.877.SAVANNAH
Fax: 912.644.6499
Web site: www.savannahvisit.com
E-mail: publicrelations@savannahVisit.com

Savannah Visitor Information Centers

- Savannah Visitor Information Center
301 Martin Luther King Blvd.
Savannah, GA 31401
912.944.0455
Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday, Sunday and Holidays 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- River Street Hospitality Center
1 River Street • Savannah, GA 31401
912.651.6662
Daily: 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Hours are subject to change depending on events and seasons.
- Tybee Island Visitor Information Center
Campbell Ave. and Highway 80
Tybee Island, GA 31328
912.786.5444 or 800.868.2322
Daily: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Savannah/ Hilton Head International Airport Visitor Information Center
464 Airways Avenue • Savannah, GA 31408
912.964.1109
Daily: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

All locations are closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.



Quick Facts

"One of the Top 10 American Travel Destinations"

- Condé Nast Traveler Magazine



Quick Facts

Tourism

Annual Visitors: 6.5 million
Direct Spending: \$1.8 billion
Tourism Related Jobs: 22,000
Nation's largest Landmark Historic District

Manufacturing

270 manufacturing plants provide 14,500 jobs

Top 5 Manufacturing Employers

Gulfstream Aerospace Corp.	5,000
Georgia-Pacific Corp.	1,420
International Paper	970
Great Dane Trailers	675
Derst Baking Co.	434

Population (Savannah MSA)

- (Bryan, Chatham and Effingham Counties)
- 1990 - 257,899
 - 2000 - 293,623
 - 2004 - 310,327
 - 2005 - 313,883

Chatham County is the 6th largest county in Georgia

119,279 households in the Savannah MSA

\$46,240 median household income

Semi-Tropical Climate

- Average Seasonal Temperatures
Spring 66° Summer 81°
Autumn 68° Winter 51°
- Precipitation: 49.7" rain per year

Schools & Churches

- Public: 30 elementary, 11 middle schools, 7 high schools
- Private: 22 K-12
- 12 universities, colleges & technical colleges with enrollment of 44,000
- Savannah has more than 650 churches

Hospitals

- 3 acute care hospitals, 1,000+ beds, 600+ doctors
- More than 100 assisted living, nursing and personal care facilities listed

Print Media/Frequency

Savannah Morning News	Daily
Statesboro Herald	Daily
Bryan County News	Weekly
Connect Savannah	Weekly
Creative Loafing	Weekly
Effingham Herald	Weekly
The Business Report & Journal	Weekly
Savannah PennySaver	Weekly
Savannah Tribune	Weekly
The Herald	Weekly
The Island Packet	Weekly
The Pooler News	Weekly
Coastal Senior	Monthly
Skirt	Monthly
Vida Latina	Monthly
Freedom's Journal	Bi-monthly
Savannah Magazine	Bi-monthly

Comparable Home Prices, Coldwell Banker

City, State	2006
Miami, FL	\$690,855
Tampa, FL	\$393,750
Charleston, SC	\$361,250
Atlanta, GA	\$322,210
Jacksonville, FL	\$315,766
Charlotte, NC	\$228,500
Savannah, GA	\$271,000
Columbus, GA	\$250,600

Government

- City of Savannah
Mayor, eight Aldermen, City Manager
- Chatham County
Chairman, eight Commissioners, County Manager
Other Chatham County municipalities: Bloomingdale, Garden City, Pooler, Port Wentworth, Thunderbolt, Tybee Island, Vernonburg

Military

- 24,300 soldiers at Ft. Stewart & Hunter Army Airfield: 18,500 soldiers at Ft. Stewart and 5,800 soldiers at HAAF
- 3,200 civilians at Ft. Stewart & HAAF
- Total military and civilian personnel at Ft. Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield: 27,500

Taxation 2006

- Property Tax
Unincorporated area: Tax on a \$130,000 home in Chatham County is \$1,248
City of Savannah: Tax on a \$130,000 home is \$1,617
- Sales Tax
7% tax on the purchase of all goods and some services
5% tax on food items



- Room Tax 7%
- Personal Income Tax
Single: \$230 on first \$7,000 plus 6% of the balance
Married: \$340 on first \$10,000 plus 6% of the balance
Married filing separately: \$170 on first \$5,000 plus 6% of the balance

Labor Force -- Savannah MSA

- Employment *
1990 - 115,600 2004 - 145,800
2000 - 136,800 2005 - 151,500
2003 - 138,400
- Georgia is a "right to work" state.





Transportation

Savannah International Airport has 42+ daily departures and 15 nonstop flights to Atlanta, Boston, Charlotte, Chicago, Cincinnati, Dallas, D.C., Detroit, Houston, Memphis, Minneapolis, Miami, Newark, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and New York City.

Airlines: AirTran, American Eagle, Continental Express, Delta Air Lines, Delta Connection, Northwest Airlink, United Express, US Airways Foreign Trade Zone #104 is located at the airport.

- CSX & Norfolk Southern Railroad
- Amtrak
- Airport/Amtrak Shuttle Service
- Greyhound
- Taxis
- Chatham Area Transit (local bus system)
- Water Ferry

Port of Savannah - Georgia Ports Authority

- Ships to 150+ countries
- Direct shipping to 300+ ports
- 50+ steamship lines
- 100+ motor carriers
- 35+ freight forwarders & custom brokers

Highways/Interstates

U.S. 17, 17A, 80; GA 21, I-16, I-95, I-516

Driving distance to:

- | | |
|---|---------|
| • Asheville, NC | 311 mi. |
| • Atlanta, GA | 252 mi. |
| • Charleston, SC | 105 mi. |
| • Charlotte, NC | 195 mi. |
| • Cleveland, OH | 766 mi. |
| • Daytona Beach, FL | 235 mi. |
| • Jacksonville, FL | 140 mi. |
| • Knoxville, TN | 467 mi. |
| • Macon, GA | 166 mi. |
| • New York, NY | 836 mi. |
| • Orlando, FL | 282 mi. |
| • Tampa, FL | 339 mi. |
| • 15 miles to Tybee Island and the Atlantic Ocean | |

Economic Development Agencies

- Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce, 912.644.6400 or www.savannahchamber.com
- Savannah Economic Development Authority, 912.447.8450 or www.seda.org
- Savannah Development and Renewal Authority, 912.651.6973 or www.sdra.net



Journalist Aides

"Top 10 Southeast Cities for Family Vacations"

- Family Fun Magazine



Savannah Story Ideas

Savannah, America's Southern Treasure:

Founded in 1733, Savannah has the distinction of being America's first planned city. Designed in a series of grids, Savannah's unique design allowed for 24 public squares lined with homes and buildings representing more than eight different architectural styles. The 2.5 square mile Landmark Historic District makes Savannah one of the largest urban historic districts in the nation. Named one of most beautiful places in America by USA Weekend Magazine, the 21 remaining squares, soon to be 22 with the revitalization of Ellis Square, have appealing beauty and quirky attitude all of their own. From the romantic elegance of the beautiful Bull Street squares, to the "New Age" ideals of Troup Square, the squares of Savannah are among her most beloved icons.

Lady with a Past, Restoring Savannah:

By the 1950s, Savannah's Historic District had lost its opulence of a century past. Many of the buildings were in disrepair and what were considered some of Savannah's finest homes were now considered slums. Groups like the Historic Savannah Foundation and the Savannah College of Art and Design, along with private residents, have restored more than 1,200 building with architectural or historical significance in Savannah. An historic zoning ordinance was enacted by the city and downtown was declared a National Landmark Historic District by the U.S. Department of the Interior. Today, Savannah shines as the architectural gem of the Georgia Coast.

Grandeur, Gossip and Gardens - Touring Savannah:

More than 40 tour companies offer a peek into the past and the present offering tours on a variety of Savannah's themes. Architecture and garden tours can be enjoyed in the spring when the city burst with color, while Savannah's role in the Revolutionary and Civil Wars can be told through the monuments and settings of the Low Country. Take of tour of some familiar movie scenes as Savannah has played host to more than 20 major motion pictures.

Romantic Escapades in Sultry Savannah:

Romance, beauty and a bit of quirky charm make Savannah the perfect spot for traditional wooing or fun-filled days and nights of romantic adventures. Savannah is home to more than 50 historic inns and bed and breakfasts creating the second largest inventory of inns the United States. All emanate romantic elegance in the pristine decors that reflect the individual taste of their innkeepers.

Savannah's Food is Piping Haute:

Savannah is known for elegant and authentic coastal cuisine. Dining in Savannah has become just as famous as her historic sites. Savannah gives visitors the vacation their taste buds deserve. Here, not only our food is making history but the destination is too. Savannah has a mix of eclectic award-winning restaurants and fantastic chefs, including the Food Network's own Paula Deen whose local restaurant, The Lady & Son's, is a popular attraction.

The Culture and Art of Georgia's First City:

The cultural scene flourishes in Savannah with more than 45 cultural and historical attractions to explore. The celebration of Savannah's maritime history at the Ships of the Sea museum, to the preservation of Savannah's early English customs at the Davenport and Owen-Thomas House can be experienced in their historical settings. Savannah's struggle for civil rights is chronicled at the Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum while the Telfair Museum of Art holds the honor of being the South's oldest art museum. The newly constructed Jepson Center for the Arts is a building with soaring, light-filled atriums and sweeping, three-level staircase that provides access to its expansive galleries. Savannah is home of one of the largest art schools in the country. The faculty and students of the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) have injected creativity and vitality into the community.

Ghostly Tales in America's Most Haunted City:

Savannah is one of America's oldest cities; its founding goes back 1733. Sprinkled among the living are quite a few residents of a "Spiritual Nature." Savannah has thousands of ghost stories to tell and several interesting and unique ways to get you spooked! Walking lantern tours, horse and carriage rides under the stars, theatrical rides in a converted hearse or a haunted pub crawl, where the occasional libation helps to calm the nerves, are just a few ways you can explore America's Most Haunted City.

The African Influence:

The Geechee and Gullah people, decedents of African slaves who settled along the Georgia Coast, influences on Savannah are chronicled through its food, music, churches and culture. Savannah, Georgia's oldest black community is one of the most historically significant African-American cities in the nation and the richness, culture and their struggles are told in the many historically significant African-American monuments and museums in Savannah.

Savannah's Outdoor Adventures:

Golf, bike, hike, fish, swim, canoe, kayak and bask in the sun and surf of the Atlantic Ocean. The Savannah area has more than 30 golf courses within 30 minutes designed by the likes of Jack Nicholas, Greg Norman and Sam Snead. Tybee Island is Savannah's beach. Perched on the brink of the Atlantic Ocean, Tybee offers fishermen some of the best off-shore fishing. For the kid in us all, you can watch the dolphins frolic in the surf on one of the island's many dolphin tours.

Savannah's Sundry of Festivals and Events:

Savannah has more than 10 large festivals a year and numerous smaller city festivals. Every spring, music takes center stage for 15 days of unparalleled entertainment as the Savannah Music Festival showcases the world's best in a vocal talent competition and performances by international superstars. Home and Garden tours are as much a part of Savannah as her city squares; and March and April bring two of the nation's most prestigious home and garden tours. In the fall, "Tinsel Town" makes appearance at the Savannah Film and Video Festival, one of the country's burgeoning cinematic arts festivals. If it's celebrations of culture you seek, Savannah fills the streets and squares with festivals that are dedicated to African-American heritage, Seafood, Oktoberfest, unique Greek and Jewish communities as well as sports and the arts. The holidays bring Southern Lights, a Savannah Celebration. From Thanksgiving to New Year's Eve; weekends are filled with lights, music and holiday cheer.

Savannah a Meeting Planners Paradise:

During work hours, she's a bustling business center with ultra-modern facilities and endless amenities. When the workday is done she is an enchanting hostess who lives to entertain your meeting or group. Savannah is one of the South's most unique meeting destination with more than 13,000 hotel rooms in the Historic Meetings District and 300,000 square feet of meeting space at the Savannah International Trade and Convention Center located in beautiful Savannah Harbor. With all to see and do, large and small meeting will find that Savannah is the perfect venue to make a meeting or conventions unforgettable.



Savannah Sample Itinerary

Day One

Learn the Basics: Get to know Savannah by experiencing a city tour. The Savannah Visitor Information Center is a good place to join a tour. This will help you get better acquainted with our genteel Southern beauty and give you a sample of the attractions you will want to explore on your own.

Lunch in the Market: Savannah's City Market has several dining establishments to tempt your taste buds. Dine outdoors at a European style café or eat in one of the Market's restored buildings, all special with their own quirky charm.

Hit the Bricks: You've taken the city tour and sampled some great Lowcountry cuisine, so now it's time to walk off that lunch and get a closer look at some of Savannah's magnificent architecture and her 21 splendid squares. Get out your map and plan your route. The Bull and Abercorn Street corridors are a good start. These routes take you past some of Savannah's famous landmarks and nine of our 21 squares. Make sure you visit beautiful Forsyth Park, one of Savannah's iconic landmarks.

Riverstreet Rendezvous: You've covered a lot of ground on day-one and you might want to have a causal bite to eat before retiring for the evening. Savannah's Historic River Street has all types of casual and upscale dining. Seafood, steaks and family favorites can be found in these restored cotton warehouses that are home to some of Savannah's favorite restaurants

and pubs. Look for live music at several of these establishments for a toe-tapping good time.

Day Two

Explore Your Interest: Savannah's 275 year old history creates many opportunities to explore various eras of history. Take an antique, architectural, Black heritage, Civil War, or ghost tour. Savannah has more than 40 tour companies ready to serve as your guide.

Cultural Attractions and Museums: Savannah has more than 45 historical and cultural attractions. Spend a day discovering the treasures and history that lie within our many house museums, forts and historic sites.

Comfort Food: Savannah loves food, and much of her hospitality and charm seasons the dishes popular to this region. For lunch on day two, dine at a restaurant that specializes in Southern cuisine to get a sample of some Savannah good'ole home cooking.

Antiques and Galleries Galore: Savannah is always alive with the arts. Influences like the Savannah College of Art and Design and the City Market artist colony makes our Historic District the perfect artist's muse. Antique shops, galleries and quirky hand-crafted gift shops pepper every corner of the district and River Street, so explore and shop' till your heart is content.

Reconnect with a Date Night:

Savannah is a city of romance. A moonlight carriage ride is the perfect beginning to a romantic evening. Our many upscale dining establishments offer great regional Lowcountry fare or international favorites in a uniquely Southern setting. These meals served by candlelight are sure to spark those romantic evenings. After dinner, catch a show at one of Savannah's three performance theaters; where musicals, plays and headlining acts can be found year-round.

Day Three

Beach Bum for a Day: Just 20 minutes from the Historic District is Tybee Island, Savannah's beach. Spend day three enjoying the sea breezes and seeking eco-adventures. Take a dolphin tour, kayak tour or deep-sea fishing excursion. Climb to the top of Georgia's oldest and tallest lighthouse or track war time battles at two of Tybee's forts.

Seaside Eats: Watch as the shrimp boats come ashore to bring in their catch, and know you are in for some of the freshest seafood around. Dine at one of Tybee's funky seaside bungalows or try one of their up-scale restaurants specializing in taste and presentation. Hit the Tybee strip for night-life and entertainment or take a moon-lit walk down the Tybee pier.

Day Four

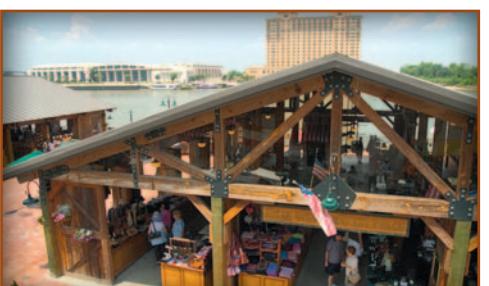
Something for Him - Something for Her: For his last day in sultry Savannah, kick-up your heels and have some fun! Savannah has more than 30 golf courses within 30 miles featuring some of the toughest holes around. Mild year-round temperatures make for perfect golfing, anytime. For her last day, start it by relaxing at a spa before hitting the streets. Savannah has several day spas featuring the latest techniques to help you relax your stress away.

Festival Fun: While in Savannah, participate in one of our many festivals. Our January Martin Luther King Jr. Observance Day Celebration as well as our March St. Patrick's Day Parade are legendary. Also in March and April, the Savannah Music Festival features some of the best performers and vocalist around and many of golf's legends play in the Liberty Mutual Legends of



Golf. Fall festivals like Oktoberfest on River Street or the Savannah Film and Video Festival are some of the fall's most popular events. The holidays are always spectacular in Savannah with events like Southern Lights, a Savannah Celebration, the Holiday Tour of Homes and the Savannah Harbor Boat Parade of Lights. Plan your return trip to Savannah around your favorite themed festival.

Savannah Souvenirs: Spend your last day in Savannah looking for that perfect signature Savannah souvenir. Savannah has a multitude of trendy shops and boutiques that are sure to have something for everyone. Savannah's Historic River Street features many specialty shops that carry art, sweets, candles and collectibles ... the perfect souvenir for everyone.





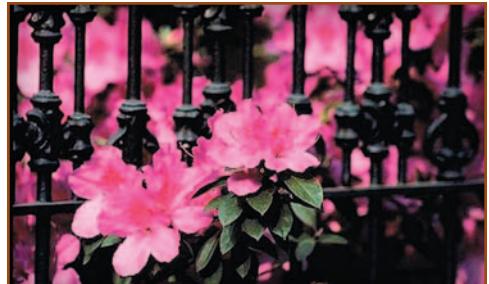
The Savannah Brand

Savannah's Brand Positioning Statement

Especially for accomplished, inquisitive, well-traveled adults who want to immerse themselves in the natural beauty, charm, architecture and history of the South. Savannah is America's beautifully preserved, historic Georgia coastal city and America's 'Southern Treasure' that captivates, intrigues, surprises and romance visitors year 'round with her gracious hospitality and subtle eccentricities.

Brand Architecture: Unique Product Features

- Unique city layout conceived by founder, General James Oglethorpe in 1733, with an abundance of squares, parks and open public spaces.
- Largest National Landmark Historic District - profuse and varied architecture - 1,800 + buildings in Landmark District. Federal, Regency, Greek Revival, Italianate, Gothic Revival, Romanesque and Victorian styles.

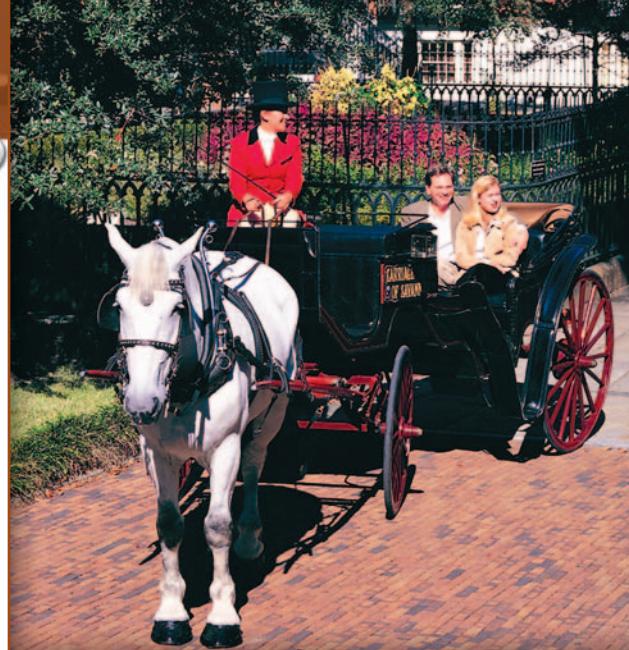


Brand Architecture: Unique Personality

- A Southern Lady – Genteel but Strong
- Well-mannered
- Charming
- Friendly
- Hospitable
- Graceful
- Elegant
- Refined
- A Steel Magnolia
- Seductive
- Romantic
- Intriguing
- Captivating
- Provocative
- Sultry
- Unusual
- Quirky
- Eccentric
- Feisty
- Mysterious
- Secretive
- Enigmatic
- Saucy
- A Bit Naughty

Brand Architecture: Unique Icons

- Squares/City Layout
- Canopy of Trees
- Live Oaks
- Magnolias
- Spanish Moss
- Azaleas
- Forsyth Park and Fountain
- Horse-drawn carriages
- Historical Buildings like the Mercer House, the Telfair Museum of Art and the Lucas Theatre
- Bird Girl Statue from "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil"
- River Street and Cotton Warehouses.
- Architectural Details like dolphin downspouts and wrought iron
- Lion Fountain by Cotton Exchange
- The Savannah Waving Girl
- Tybee Island Lighthouse
- Low Country waterways, marshes and wildlife





Savannah Secrets

Underneath the obviously appealing aesthetics of this centuries old city are some historical accounts and quirky facts that helped to shape our nation. Read on to learn some of Savannah's Secrets.

- The Pirates' House, a famous Savannah restaurant, was actually a tavern frequented by pirates who sailed the Caribbean in 1794. Events at the Pirates' House were the inspiration for Robert Lewis Stevenson's novel Treasure Island.
- In 2002, the American Institute of Parapsychology named Savannah [America's Most Haunted City](#). Based on Savannah's history of fires, plagues, wars and voodoo, they determined Savannah was the perfect place for supernatural activity.
- While admiring Savannah's splendid architecture, you might start to notice a reoccurring color painted on the doorframes, porches and windowsills of many of Savannah's grand homes. This bluish green color, or "[Haint Blue](#)," is not only aesthetically pleasing, but it has an important purpose, to ward off evil spirits. "Haint Blue" paint was first used by African Slaves to secure entry point into their houses from spirits. The Geechee/Gullah culture of the Lowcountry say the bluish green color of "Haint Blue" represents water, of which it is believed, spirits can not pass over.
- Five months after General Oglethorpe and the original settlers landed in Savannah, 42 Jewish refugees from Spain arrived in July 1733. This was the [largest immigration of Jews](#) at one time to the new world during the colonial period.
- Florence Martus, a Savannahian, whose understanding and application of the words "Southern Hospitality" brought her fame as the [Waving Girl](#). Born August 7, 1868, Martus lived with her brother, lighthouse keeper George Martus, between 1887 and 1931 near the entrance of the Savannah Harbor. During this time, she would wave a welcome to each incoming ship and wave goodbye to every outgoing vessel. During her years at the light house, she greeted more than 50,000 vessels. Located on Savannah's Historic River Street, this is the first memorial to a Georgia woman in any city park.
- Tomochichi, Chief of the Yamacraw Indians, was rumored to stand over seven feet tall, have only one good eye and wear a cape of bear skin. Tomochichi is buried in Wright Square; a large boulder marks his resting place.
- Besides English, the [other languages spoken in the early days of the colony](#) were Native American languages, Spanish, Portuguese, Yiddish, French, Gaelic and German.



Historical Overviews

"Top 10 Most Beautiful Places in America"

- The Squares of Savannah, USA Weekend Magazine

Savannah's Brief History

When General James Edward Oglethorpe and the 114 travelers of the good ship "Anne" landed on a bluff high along the Savannah River in February 1733, Oglethorpe named the thirteenth and final American colony Georgia, after England's King George II. Savannah became its first city.

King George II granted a charter for the colony to a group of trustees whose mission was to aid the working poor of England, strengthen the colonies by increasing trade and serve as a buffer zone for South Carolina- protecting it from the advance of the Spanish in Florida. It was Oglethorpe's dream that individuals were free to worship as they pleased as long as you were not Catholic; and rum, lawyers and slavery were forbidden - for a time.

Upon settling, Oglethorpe was aided by the native Yamacraw Indian Chief Tomochichi. Oglethorpe and Tomochichi pledged their friendship and goodwill, and the Yamacraw chief granted the new arrivals permission to settle Savannah on the bluff. The town flourished without conflicts with the Native Americans that stifled the beginnings of so many of America's other early colonies.

Savannah is credited as being America's first planned city. Oglethorpe designed the city in a series of grids that allowed for wide open streets intertwined with shady public squares and parks that served as town meeting places and centers of business. Savannah had 24 original squares and thanks to preservation efforts, 21 remain today.

Georgia, along with most of the other colonies, protested excessive taxation from England and the young nation was thrust into the Revolutionary War. With the growth of trade, and especially after the invention of the cotton gin on a plantation



outside of Savannah, the city became a rival of Charleston as a commercial port. Many of the world's cotton prices were set on the steps of the Savannah Cotton Exchange, which is still in existence today.

Rich and prosperous, pre-Civil War Savannah was praised by many as the most picturesque and serene city in America with grand oak trees dripping with Spanish moss and genteel people who exhibited exceptional charm. Residents built lavish homes and churches throughout the city that reflected the affluence of the times.

With the onslaught of the Civil War, the city suffered. In 1864, Sherman began his march to the sea burning the city of Atlanta and everything else in their path on the way to the coast. Savannah was evacuated and avoided destruction. Upon entering Savannah, Sherman was so taken back by its beauty that on December 22, 1864, a legendary telegram was sent from Savannah and delivered to then President Abraham Lincoln, by which Sherman presented the city of Savannah to Lincoln as a Christmas present. The war was now over for Savannah and a period of reconstruction began.

The post-war years brought about a new movement in Savannah in the realms of aesthetics, culture and economy. A group of concerned women organized in the 1950s to preserve historic structures threatened by the wrecking ball of urban renewal. The brave endeavor gave rise to the Historic Savannah Foundation, who since its inception, has saved multitudes of buildings whose beauty and appeal was the foundation of Savannah's charm. Savannah's Historic District was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1966 and remains one of the largest historic landmarks in the country.

Savannah's Famous Firsts

1736 - First English Hymnal

John Wesley, the third rector of Christ Church, published the first English hymnal in America. Sunday School classes organized at Christ Church by John Wesley are thought to represent the first Sunday School in history.

1742 - First Lighthouse on South Atlantic Coast

The first aid to navigation in the South was erected near the present Tybee Island lighthouse. The first tower was never lighted and served as a day mark. A second tower, built in 1742 and lighted in 1748, was the third lighthouse in America.

1788 - First Black Baptist Congregation

The first Black Baptist congregation was organized at Brampton Plantation outside Savannah. Their descendants established Savannah's First African Baptist Church and First Bryan Baptist Church.

1793 - Cotton Gin

Eli Whitney, a Yale graduate, invented the cotton gin while serving as a tutor on General Nathaniel Greene's Mulberry Grove Plantation outside Savannah. This invention revolutionized the South, making it possible to process cotton on a large scale.

1819 - The S.S. Savannah

This sailing vessel with auxiliary steam power crossed from Savannah to Liverpool England. Two weeks prior to the historic voyage, President James Monroe, the second president to visit Savannah, made an excursion on the vessel to Tybee Island.

1856 - Massie School

Georgia's oldest school in continuous operation was built in 1856. It was named for Peter Massie who left \$5,000 for the education of poor children. Regular classes were discontinued in 1974, but it continues as a resource center.

1886 - Telfair Museum of Art

Built in 1819 as a mansion for Alexander Telfair, the academy was left to the Georgia

Historical Society in 1875. Period rooms with many Telfair family pieces are maintained. The museum's collection contains works by American and European artists, as well as special exhibits and is the oldest art museum in the South.

1912 - Girl Scouts

On March 12, 1912, at her residence on Lafayette Square, Juliette Gordon Low formed the first Girl Scout troop in America. Mrs. Low's Birthplace, at the corner of Oglethorpe Avenue and Bull Street, is maintained by the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A and is a museum and national program center.

- 1733 Capitol of Georgia, America's 13th Colony
- 1733 First Jewish Congregation in the South
- 1734 First city planned on a system of squares in North America
- 1734 First agricultural experimental garden in North America
- 1735 First silk exportation from America
- 1736 First lighthouse on the South Atlantic Coast
- 1740 First horse race in Georgia
- 1755 First cattle exportation in Georgia
- 1763 First newspaper in the Colony, The Georgia Gazette
- 1788 First Negro Baptist Congregation in America
- 1788 First public school in Georgia, Massie School
- 1793 First cotton gin - Eli Whitney
- 1794 First golf course in America, Savannah Golf Club
- 1819 First steamship to cross an ocean, The S.S. Savannah

- 1832 First hospital for Negroes in America, Georgia Infirmary
- 1862 First use of rifled cannon in modern warfare at Fort Pulaski
- 1911 First motorized fire department in America
- 1963 First garden for the blind in Southeast





Black Heritage

The trans-Atlantic slave trade brought millions of Africans to America with many passing through the port of Savannah forming the Geechee and Gullah cultures of the Atlantic coastal communities in Georgia and South Carolina. The slave trade in the South led to a new social economic era where the color of one's skin determined whether you lived your life enslaved or free. It would take three generations and a war between the states to bring an end to slavery in America.

Through the hardships of slavery and the fight for civil rights, Africans in Savannah founded their own churches, schools and communities. Savannah, Georgia's oldest black community, is one of the most historically significant African-American cities in the nation. To sample the true soul of Savannah one must walk the city streets and squares and visit the many African-American owned and operated businesses that uphold the traditions of our African roots.

Guests who come to our city are truly captivated by Savannah's charm, its rich heritage and all the activities the city offers every day of the year. Come and experience the soul of Savannah where our heritage is celebrated.

The African-American Families Monument

Location: Savannah's Historic River Street
Local artist and professor Dorothy Spradley created this larger-than-life, bronze-and-granite monument to African-American families, on Rousakis Plaza near the west end of River Street. It shows two adults and two children standing with broken chains at their feet. The base is inscribed with Maya Angelou's words depicting the horrors of a slave ship voyage but ending on the note of hope.

Beach Institute

Location: 502 E. Harris Street
Phone: 912.234.8000
Established in 1865 by the American Missionary Association as a school for newly freed slaves, it is Georgia's oldest continuous standing school for blacks. It features local and national art exhibits including a collection by renowned wood carver, Ulysses Davis. Davis' complete work of wood carvings of the American presidents is on permanent display. The institute is under the operation of the King-Tisdell Cottage Foundation.

The Geechee Institute

Phone: 912.631.7761
The Geechee Institute is a cultural arts organization whose goal is to tell the history of the Geechee and Gullah people of Savannah and Coastal Georgia through oral traditions, lectures and tours. Call for appointments.

The King-Tisdell Cottage

Location: 514 E. Huntington St.

Phone: 912.234.8000

The cottage is an 1896 Victorian home named for local black citizens Eugene and Sarah King and Mrs. King's second husband Robert Tisdell. Today the cottage serves as a cultural museum highlighting the contributions Africans have made to our nation's history. The King-Tisdell Cottage houses a copy of the Emancipation Proclamation, Field Order 15 providing 40 acres and a mule to freed blacks and an original slave bill of sale. The basement houses a collection of household items of the period including an operational music box dating back to the 1800s.

Massie Heritage Interpretation Center

Location: 207 East Gordon St.

Phone: 912.201.5070

Web site: www.massieschool.com

Massie Common School House, named for the Scotsman who bequeath \$5,000 for the purpose of educating poor children was opened in 1870. Public education continued at Massie until the occupation of Savannah by General William T. Sherman. During the spring and summer of 1865, Massie served as a school for black children under the order of General Sherman.

Owens-Thomas House Slave Quarters

Location: 124 Abercorn Street

Phone: 912.233.9743

The Owens-Thomas House is considered the finest example of English Regency architecture in America by architectural historians. The home completed construction in 1819 and has one of the earliest intact slave quarters in the South. The walls of these quarters have retained the original furnishings and "haint-blue" paint made by the slaves who occupied the quarters.

The Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Right Museum

Location: 406 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard

Phone: 912.231.8900

The museum archives the struggle of Georgia's oldest African-American community from slavery to the present. Guided and narrated tours through three floors of photographic and interactive exhibits chronicles the



civil rights struggle in Savannah. Named in honor of Dr. Ralph Mark Gilbert, the father of the Savannah civil rights movement, the museum is located on Savannah's historic Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

Savannah State University

Location: LaRoach Avenue

Phone: 912.356.2186

Web site: www.savstate.edu

Savannah State University has been an institution of higher education for blacks in Southeast Georgia since its founding in 1890. Originally called the Georgia Industrial College for Colored Youths, the University was founded as a result of the Morrill Act of 1890. Savannah State is one of the original Negro land-grant colleges and is located on a 165-acre tract of rolling, beautifully landscaped grounds overlooking picturesque saltwater marshes. This historically black university was the first public institution of higher learning for blacks in the state of Georgia.

Yamacraw Public Art Park

Location: Yamacraw Square

Yamacraw Square is the first square to be dedicated to the African-American and American Indian history in Savannah's Yamacraw area. The art represents the pride, cultural heritage and community spirit of the space.



Savannah's Military History

From its beginning, Savannah has been fortified to protect its residents and strategic port. In the early years, Savannah was walled against the Spanish. Later, artillery fortifications protected the city from British and Union troops during the Revolutionary and Civil Wars and even Pirates. The forts stand today as un-garrisoned but fascinating reminders of our military history and as striking memorials to our country's struggles to remain free.

Battle Field Park

Phone: 912.232.3945

Web site: www.chsgeorgia.org

The Siege of Savannah began at dawn on October 9, 1779, when 7,000 men from three continents engaged in mortal combat for the possession of the village of Savannah. The main area for this conflict was the slope in front of the spring hill redoubt on the Westside of town. More than 700 men spilled their blood on this ground in the battle lasting less than one hour. Battlefield Park was first envisioned in the 1960s as a community resource. Since then the concept has undergone many changes and redirection in scale. The site will open to the public in 2006.

Fort Pulaski National Monument

Location: U.S. Highway 80

Phone: 912.786.5787

Web site: www.nps.gov/fopu

Now a National Monument operated by the National Park Service, Fort Pulaski stands 15 miles east of

Savannah just off U.S. Highway 80 on the way to Tybee Island. Designed by Napoleon's military engineer and built between 1829 and 1847, it was the "piece de resistance" in brick and masonry forts. Future Confederate General Robert E. Lee was assigned to the fort as an engineer upon his graduation from West Point. When the Confederates seized Fort Pulaski in 1861, they thought the fort would be an impregnable blockade of the Savannah River. However, the use of new rifled cannons forced their surrender in just 30 hours of bombardment, bringing the days of masonry forts to an end. Call for hours of operation.

Fort Screven

Location: Fort Screven Road

Phone: 912.786.4077

Web site: www.tybeelighthouse.com

Located on Tybee Island, Fort Screven was one of the last coastal artillery batteries built along the East Coast. It was erected in 1875 and was manned during the Spanish-American War and both World Wars. Tybee Museum, located in one of the bastion vaults of the un-restored fort, displays relics and artifacts from colonial and pre-colonial days. Hours of operation are Monday, Wednesday and Sunday, 9 a.m.- 5:30 p.m.

Fort Wayne

Located: East Broad and Bay Street

Originally named Fort Savannah, it was popular dueling ground in Savannah. Constructed during the Revolutionary War, the fort was manned to defend the

colony of Georgia against an attack by the British in 1778. The Fort Wayne site was purchased by the Savannah Gas Company in 1850 and the retaining wall was added when Bay Street was extended by the city. Only the outer walls remain today.

Old Fort Jackson

Location: 1 Fort Jackson Road

Phone: 912.232.3945

Web site: www.chsgeorgia.org

Three miles from downtown Savannah, Fort Jackson is the oldest remaining brickwork fort. Constructed between 1809 and 1842, the fort first saw service in the War of 1812 and then again during the Civil War. It is situated on the south bank of the Savannah River, occupying a site fortified since colonial days. Fort Jackson guards Five Fathom Hole, the 18th century deep-water port in the Savannah River. The fort has numerous displays and artifacts depicting the history of Savannah and Coastal Georgia. Seasonal demonstrations and exhibits are scheduled for the second weekend of each month. Hours of Operation are 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily.

Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum

Location: 147 Bourne Avenue

Phone: 912.748.8888

Web site: www.mightyeighth.org

This \$13 million museum honors the courage, character and patriotism embodied by the men and women of the Eighth Air Force from World War II to the present. The 95,000 square-foot museum is situated on a 13-acre tract at the intersection of Interstate 95 and U.S. Highway 80 in the Westside of Savannah. This landmark includes a museum, library, static aircrafts, displays, archives, research center, bookstore, gift shop and snack bar.



Washington's Guns

Located: Bay and Drayton Street

These two bronze cannons were affectionately named "George and Martha," after the Washingtons. These guns were taken at the battle of Yorktown and presented to the Chatham Artillery as a dramatic "bread and butter" piece offering by General George Washington when he visited Savannah in May of 1791.

Vietnam Memorial

Located: River Street and East Broad Street Ramp

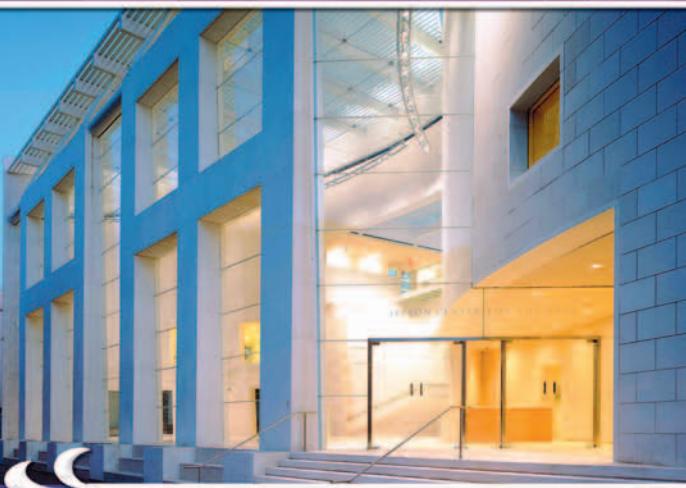
The City of Savannah and Chatham County Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated on June 29, 1991. The design and layout of the memorial is in the shape of Vietnam and is a salute to fallen comrades featuring a rifle, helmet and combat boots. Names of military members from this area who died in the Vietnam War are engraved in marble as a reminder of Savannah's lost. The memorial is located in Emmett Park.





More Savannah Secrets

- While wandering around Savannah, if you happen to take a stroll down St. Julian Street, you will notice you are walking on oyster shells. You have discovered **Tabby**. Tabby is a type of cement or plaster used for mortar, walls and walkways. Because limestone was not available along the coast, the colonist burned oyster shells and mixed the ash with sand and water to make cement.
- Girl Scouting of the USA was founded in Savannah in 1912 by a Savannah woman named Juliette Gordon Low. Her childhood home, also called "the Birthplace" by Girl Scouts, was Savannah's first National Historic Landmark.
- **Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil**, the John Berendt's novel about secrets, socialites and murder, spent more than five years on the New York Times Bestseller list holding the record for one of the longest running bestseller in history.
- While the **Spanish moss** that hangs from Savannah's majestic oaks is a true reminder that you are in the romantic South, Spanish moss does not make a great souvenir. Often undetectable by the naked eye, small biting bugs called Chiggers make Spanish moss its home. During the early days of the Colony, residents often stuffed and bound their mattresses with the soft and bountiful Spanish moss only to wake up irritated and itchy after the tiny bugs invaded their slumber. As a result, a common phrase emerged in Savannah, and it was - "Goodnight neighbor, sleep tight, and don't let the bed bugs bite!"
- Savannah over the years has become the fictional home of some of the silver screen's most **memorable movies** including "Forrest Gump," "Roots," "Gator," "Glory," "Something to Talk About," "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil," "Forces of Nature," "The General's Daughter," and the Robert Redford golf epic, "Legend of Bagger Vance." Hollywood loves Savannah because our beautiful Historic District and Lowcountry landscape make us an instant movie set. While in Savannah, take a movie tour and see the sights featured in some of pop culture's favorite films.
- In a study published by the Savannah Historic Foundation, one of the most admired preservation groups in the country, more than 40 percent of 2,500 buildings inventoried in Savannah had architectural or historical significance.
- When the Colony of Georgia was founded in 1733, Catholics, lawyers and hard liquor were banned. But considering that Savannah is home to the largest celebration in the South honoring **St. Patrick** (an Irish Catholic Saint) and is famous for the "**Downtown To-Go Cup**" (thanks to the city's liberal view on cocktails to go) Savannah has since dropped all bans.



Savannah's Icons & Attractions

"Top 10 Walking Cities"

- Walking Magazine



Squares and Parks of Savannah

Voted one of the 10 Most Beautiful Places in America by USA Weekend Magazine, the squares and parks of Savannah are the community's most beloved icons. Originally designed with 24 squares, 22 remain today to be enjoyed by the millions who grace their grassy utopias every year. (See map, page 62)

Savannah's Squares

Calhoun Square

Abercorn and Wayne Streets

Calhoun Square was designed in 1851 and named in honor of John C. Calhoun. Calhoun was a South Carolina statesman and Vice President under John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson. Calhoun Square is the only square where all of the original historic buildings remain.

[Located on the square:](#) Massie School and Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church

Chatham Square

Barnard and Wayne Streets

Chatham Square was designed in 1847 and named in honor of William Pitt, the Earl of Chatham. Pitt was an early supporter of the colony and though he never visited Savannah, Chatham County and Chatham Square were named in his honor.

[Located on the square:](#) Gordon Row, 15 four-storyed townhouses each 20 feet wide with identical architecture. Admired for its ironwork and unique doorways

Chippewa Square

Bull and McDonough Streets

Chippewa Square was designed in 1815 and named to commemorate the Battle of Chippewa in the War of 1812. In the center stands a bronze statue of the colony's founder, General James Edward Oglethorpe, who faces south protecting Savannah from the Spanish in Florida.

[Located on the Square:](#) First Baptist Church, the Savannah Theatre and the Eastman-Stoddard House. Also known as "Forrest Gump Square," the bus stop scenes from the Oscar winning motion picture were filmed on the north end of the square

Columbia Square

Habersham and Presidents Streets

Columbia Square was designed in 1799 and named "Columbia," the female personification of the United States of America. In the center sits a fountain from the Wormsloe Plantation, an early Savannah settlement.

[Located on the square:](#) The Davenport House and the Kehoe House

Crawford Square

Houston and McDonough Streets

Crawford Square was designed in 1841 and named in honor of William Harrison Crawford, Minister of France during the reign of Napoleon. Crawford was said to be the only foreign politician with any influence over Napoleon.

Elbert Square

Lost to urban sprawl, Elbert Square was designed out in 1801 between Montgomery and McDonough streets. It was named in honor of Samuel Elbert, a Revolutionary War hero and Georgia Governor.

Ellis Square: Re-opening 2009

Bryan and Barnard Street

Once lost to urban sprawl, the old city square is being restored thanks to a public/private partnership by the City of Savannah and area developers. The restored square will feature underground parking, retail centers and hotels. The City hopes to have restorative efforts complete by 2009. Ellis Square was designed in 1733 and was named in honor of Henry Ellis, the second Royal Governor. It was here that the "Old City Market" was located and merchants sold crops and wares.

Franklin Square

Montgomery Street and St. Julian Streets

Franklin Square was designed in 1791 and named in honor of Benjamin Franklin, for many years the square was the site of the city's water tower and was referred to as "water tower square."

[Located on the square:](#) First African Baptist Church and the west-end of City Market

Greene Square

Houston and Presidents Streets

Greene Square was designed in 1799 to honor General Nathanael Greene, a Revolutionary War hero who fought against the British in Savannah.

[Located on the square:](#) Second African Baptist Church



Johnson Square

Bull and St. Julian Streets

Johnson Square was designed in 1733 and named for Robert Johnson, the Royal Governor of South Carolina when Georgia was founded. Johnson Square was the first of Savannah's 24 squares and served as its commercial hub. In the center stands a monument of General Nathanael Greene, a Revolutionary War hero and Savannah patriot.

[Located on the square:](#) Christ Episcopal Church

Lafayette Square

Abercorn and Macon Streets

Lafayette Square was designed in 1873 to honor the Marquis de Lafayette, who aided the Americans during the Revolutionary War. In the center sits a fountain dedicated by the Colonial Dames of America.

[Located on the square:](#) The Hamilton-Turner House, the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, the Low-Colonial Dames House and the childhood home of author Flannery O' Conner





Liberty Square

Lost to urban sprawl, Liberty Square was designed in 1799 between Montgomery and Presidents Streets and named to honor Savannah patriots, the "Liberty Boys." The Liberty Boys were instrumental in setting the stage for Georgia's involvement in the American Revolution.

Madison Square

Bull and Macon Streets

Madison Square was designed in 1837 and named to honor James Madison, the fourth president of the United States. In the center stands a monument of Sergeant William Jasper who fell during the Siege of Savannah in 1779. A granite marker denotes the southern line of the British defense during the 1779 battle.

Located on the square: St. John's Episcopal Church, the Green-Meldrim House and the Sorrel-Weed House

Monterey Square

Bull and Wayne Streets

Monterey Square was designed in 1847 and was named to commemorate the 1846 Battle of Monterey during the Mexican American War. It was the battle of the Mexican War in which a Savannah unit of the Irish Jasper Greens fought. The square's monument honors Casimir Pulaski, a Polish nobleman who was mortally wounded during the Siege of Savannah while fighting for Americans.

Located on the square: Temple Mickve Israel and the Mercer House

Oglethorpe Square

Abercorn and Presidents Streets

Oglethorpe Square was designed in 1742 in honor of James Edward Oglethorpe, the founder of Savannah, Georgia's First City. In the center sits a marker to the Moravians who arrived in Savannah in 1735 from the current day Czech Republic.

Located on the square: The Owens-Thomas House

Orleans Square

Barnard and McDonough Streets

Orleans Square was designed in 1815 in honor of the heroes of the Battle of New Orleans during the War of 1812. The fountain in the square was dedicated in 1989 by Savannah's German Society to recognize the contributions of Savannah's early German immigrants.

Located on the square: The Champion-McAlpin House

Pulaski Square

Barnard and Macon Streets

Pulaski Square was designed in 1837 and named in honor of Count Casimir Pulaski of Poland, the highest ranking foreign officer to die in the American Revolution. Pulaski fell during the Siege of Savannah in 1779.

Located on the square: The house of Confederate hero Francis S. Bartow

Reynolds Square

Abercorn and St. Julian Streets

Reynolds Square was designed in 1733 and named for Georgia's first Royal Governor, John Reynolds. In the center stands a monument to Reynolds, the founder of Methodism and the Anglican minister to the colony in 1736.

Located on the square: The Olde Pink House and the Lucas Theatre

Telfair Square

Barnard and President Streets

Telfair Square was designed in 1733 as St. James Square; and it was renamed in 1883 to honor Edward Telfair a three-time governor of Georgia and patron to the arts.

Located on the square: Trinity United Methodist Church, the Telfair Museum of Art and Jepson Center for the Arts

Troup Square

Habersham and McDonough Streets

Troup Square was designed in 1851 and named in honor of George Michael Troup, a Senator and Governor of Georgia. In the center stands the Armillary Sphere a astronomical device designed to show the relationship among the celestial circles.

Located on the square: The Unitarian Universalist Church and the McDonough Row Houses

Warren Square

Habersham and St. Julian Streets

Warren Square was designed in 1791 and named in honor of General Joseph Warren who was killed at the Battle of Bunker Hill during the Revolutionary War.

Washington Square

Houston and St. Julian Streets

Washington Square was designed in 1790 and named to honor George Washington, the first President of the United States. Some of the oldest houses in Savannah reside on this square.

Whitfield Square

Habersham and Wayne Streets

Whitfield Square was designed in 1851 and was the last of the Savannah squares. Named to honor Reverend George Whitfield, founder of the Bethesda Orphanage, the oldest orphanage in the United States. A gazebo sits in the center and Victorian architecture is prominent in this area.

Located on the square: The First Congregational Church

Wright Square

Bull and President Street

Wright Square was designed in 1733 and named for Sir James Wright, Georgia's third and last colonial governor. The monument in the square honors William Washington Gordon, an early mayor of Savannah who established the Central of Georgia Railroad. The large boulder marks the grave of Tomochichi, the Yamacraw Indian Chief who welcomed General Oglethorpe and the first colonists.

Located on square: Lutheran Church of the Ascension

Savannah's Parks

Emmet Park

Bay Streets between Abercorn and East Broad Streets
Once an Indian burial ground, Emmet Park was named for an Irish patriot and orator Robert Emmet. Sections of Factor's Walk border the park and contains monuments to German Salzburgers, the Celtic Cross, Savannah's fallen soldiers from the Vietnam War, the Chatham Artillery Memorial and the Old Harbor Light.

Forsyth Park

Bull and Gaston Streets

This 30-acre park is bordered on the north by Gaston Street, on the south by Park Avenue and has a one-mile perimeter popular among outdoor enthusiasts. The northern section of the park was donated to the city by William Hodgson, a private citizen, who felt the city needed a large public park. In 1851 the park was expanded and named for John Forsyth, a Georgia Governor. The park's north end is home to a cast iron fountain that was erected in 1858. The Forsyth Park Fountain was designed to resemble the grand fountain in Paris at the Place de la Concorde. An exact replica of the Forsyth Park Fountain resides in Cuzco, Peru. The park is also adorned by monuments to the Confederate Soldier, the Marine Corps Monument, the Spanish-American Monument and the Fragrant Garden for the Blind. The Forsyth Park Fountain is one of the most visited attractions by visitors to Savannah.

Morrell Park

River Street and East Broad Ramp

This riverside park is home to one of Savannah's most beloved figures, The Waving Girl. The statue commemorates Florence Martus, the lighthouse keepers' sister who waved to ships in Savannah's port for more than 44 years. She stands as a symbol of Savannah's gracious Southern hospitality and charm. Also located at Morrell Park is Savannah's Olympic Flame. Savannah was the site of the 1996 Olympic yachting events. It burned throughout the duration of the centennial games in Atlanta.



Savannah's Architectural Styles

In a study published by the Savannah Historic Foundation, one of the most admired preservation groups in the country, more than 40 percent of 2,500 buildings inventoried in Savannah had architectural or historical significance.

Most restoration has been accomplished by individuals - one building at a time. With the addition of the Savannah College of Art and Design in the late 1970s, historic preservation and restoration flourished.

From the simple Colonial style to the intricate Medieval-influenced cathedrals, to the gingerbread accents of the Victorian period; examples of most, if not all, of the nation's 18th and 19th century prevailing architectural styles can be found in Savannah.

Federal

The Federal style is depicted by prominent square or rectangular exteriors with slender curved iron stair railings and Palladian or Venetian windows.

Savannah examples: The Davenport House and the Oliver Struges House

Georgian

The Georgian style is depicted by symmetrical square facades with hipped roofs. Chimneys are built on the ends and quoins often adorn the corners.

Savannah example: The Olde Pink House Restaurant

Gothic Revival

The Gothic Revival style is depicted by crafted details on pinnacles, chimneys and large welcoming entry hallways. Often used on churches of the period.

Savannah examples: Cathedral of John the Baptist, Green-Meldrim House and the Temple Mickve Israel

Greek Revival

The Greek Revival style is depicted by gabled portico or temple façade of one or two stories with columns of the Greek Doric or Ionic orders. Construction is post and beam, and roofs are designed with slopes and may be disguised behind heavy cornices and parapets.

Savannah examples: The Champion-McAlpin House, First Bryan Baptist Church and First Baptist Church

Italianate

The Italianate style was inspired by the farmhouses of northern Italy and is depicted by low garbled roofs with wide overhanging eaves supported by decorative brackets, and entrance towers and roundhead windows with hood moldings. Most examples also feature cast-iron fronts and detailed entrances.

Savannah examples: Kehoe House, Mercer House and the Andrew Low House

Regency

The Regency style is depicted by triangular pediments, semicircular stairs, articulated window openings ionic columns and classical alcove entrance ways.

Savannah examples: The Owens-Thomas House, Telfair Museum of Art and Ships of the Sea Museum

Romanesque Revival

The Romanesque Revival style is depicted by arch and dome construction, Corinthian column capitals and roof balustrades.

Savannah examples: The Cotton Exchange and the Savannah Volunteer Guards Armory

Second French Empire

This Second French Empire style emphasizes picturesque vertical accents on building tops like chimneys and corner pinnacles. Also featured are turrets and domes reminiscent of French Renaissance architecture in the seventeenth century.

Savannah example: The Hamilton-Turner House

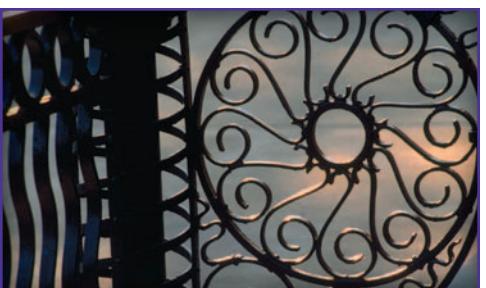


Savannah's Ironwork

Ironwork is one of Savannah's pristine attributes. The same scrolled designs appear in the squares around monuments and fountains and on the buildings that face them. In Savannah, cast iron balconies and stair railings adorn many of the homes in the Landmark Historic District while iron storks decorate gardens and dolphins are portrayed as waterspouts.

Ironwork did not appear in Savannah until the town began to rebuild after the fire of 1796. Ironwork from the North was placed on homes that were built in all sections of the city in the prosperous decades before the Civil War. To meet some of the demand for ironwork in Savannah, foundries were established at the Hermitage Plantation on the Savannah River. The Rose Brothers started the Indian Street Foundry and the Kehoe Foundry on East Broughton Street which is still in existence today.

Today, ironwork can be seen all over Savannah, Georgia's First City, beautifully restored to its original beauty. The craft has seen resurgence in popularity as many foundries reside in Savannah today. Works by local craftsmen can be seen adorning many of the hidden garden walls and gates in the Historic District.





Savannah's Attractions

Savannah has more than 40 cultural attractions and museums to keep the inquisitive traveler busy. Savannah's past is told in the many house museums and cultural centers that populate this historic city.

The Andrew Low House

Location: 329 Abercorn Street

Phone: 912.233.6854

Web site: www.andrewlowhouse.com

This structure was built in 1848 by cotton merchant Andrew Low. Low's son, William MacKay Low, married Juliette Gordon, founder of Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. It is owned and preserved by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of Georgia. The carriage house was left to the Girl Scouts as their Savannah headquarters. Hours of operation are Monday - Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Sunday, Noon - 4 p.m. Closed on Thursdays.

City Market

Location: Between Barnard, Congress and Bryan Streets

Phone: 912.232.4903

Web site: www.savannahcitymarket.com

Four blocks in the heart of the Historic District have been renovated to capture the authentic atmosphere and character of the city's old open marketplace. There are also restaurants, open-air cafes, jazz clubs, theme shops and stores offering crafts, accessories and gifts.

Davenport House Museum

Location: 324 East State Street

Phone: 912.233.8097

Web site: www.davenportsavga.com

Located on Columbia Square the Isaiah Davenport House was built between 1815 and 1820 and is an exceptionally fine example of Federal architecture. It was the proposed demolition of this home that served as a catalyst in the founding of the Historic Savannah Foundation. It features a fine collection of Davenport china and period decorative arts.

Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home

Location: 207 E. Charlton Street

Phone: 912.233.6014

Web site: www.llp.armstrong.edu/flannery

Author Mary Flannery O'Connor was born in Savannah, Georgia in 1925 and lived in this house until 1938. Today, it is maintained partly as a memorial to her and partly as a literary center for Savannah. The house is open to the public free of charge Saturdays from 1-5 p.m. and Sundays from 1-4 p.m.

The Georgia Historical Society

Location: 501 Whitaker Street

Phone: 912.651.2125

Web site: www.georgiahistory.com

The Georgia Historical Society is the oldest cultural institution in the state and one of the oldest historical organizations in the nation. The library and archives contains diaries, personal letters, ledger books, minute

books, account books, church records and many other primary sources related to Georgia's History. Library hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.

Green-Meldrim House

Location: 1 West Macon Street

Phone: 912.232.1251

Completed by architect/builder John S. Norris for wealthy cotton merchant Charles Green, the Green-Meldrim house was the headquarters of Union General William T. Sherman after he captured the city at the conclusion of his "March to the Sea." It is now the parish house for St. John's Episcopal Church and has been fully restored and furnished. The house is graced with magnificent carving and plaster work. Call for hours of operation.

Jepson Center for the Arts

Location: 207 W. York St.

Phone: 912.790.8800

Web site: www.telfair.org

Jepson Center for the Arts features two large galleries for major traveling exhibitions; galleries for African American art, Southern art, photography and works-on-paper; a community gallery; a 3,500-sq. ft. hands-on gallery for young people; two outdoor sculpture terraces, education studios, a 200-seat auditorium, café, and store. Covered with glistening white Portuguese stone and consisting of two separate structures connected by glass bridges over a protected lane that is part of Savannah's town plan originally conceived in 1733 by Georgia's founder General James Oglethorpe.

Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace

Location: 142 Bull Street

Phone: 912.233.4501

Web site: www.girlscouts.org/birthplace

Built between 1818 and 1820, the Center is the birthplace of Juliette Gordon Low, founder of the Girl Scouts. The building has been restored and furnished to depict the 1870s and was named Savannah's first National Historic Landmark in 1965. It is owned and operated by the Girl Scouts of the USA as a memorial to their founder and is a program center for all members.



Massie Heritage Interpretation Center

Location: 207 East Gordon Street

Phone: 912.651.7380

Web site: www.massieschool.com

Massie is the only remaining original building of Georgia's oldest chartered school system. The Heritage Classroom Program, operated by the public school system at Massie, is an enrichment program to increase students' understanding of Savannah's historic and architectural heritage.

The Mercer-Williams House Museum

Location: 430 Whitaker Street

Phone: 912.236.6352

Web site: www.mercerhouse.com

Known for its "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" fame, the Mercer-Williams House was designed by New York architect John S. Norris for General Hugh W. Mercer, great grandfather of singer/songwriter Johnny Mercer. In 1969, Jim Williams, one of Savannah's earliest and most dedicated private restorationists, bought the then vacant house and began a two-year restoration. The house is now open to the public since its restoration was completed.

The Oatland Island Education Center

Location: 711 Sandtown Road

Phone: 912.898.3980

Web site: www.oatlandisland.org

The Center features a "Native Animal Nature Trail" that winds through maritime forest, salt marsh and freshwater wetlands. Along the way, visitors can observe native animals such as Florida panthers, Eastern timber wolves, alligators, and many more in their natural habitat. The Center is open for self-guided trail walks Monday-Friday 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. and most Saturdays from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Owens-Thomas House

Location: 124 Abercorn Street

Phone: 912.233.9743

Web site: www.telfair.org

Designed in 1816 by William Jay, this house is generally considered to be the finest example of Regency architecture in America. Now serves as a house museum and features one of the few intact slave quarters in America.

River Street

Location: Below Bay Street

Phone: 912.234.0295

Web site: www.savriverstreet.com

Bordering the thriving river port, River Street imparts old-world charm. The nine-block brick concourse is ideal for strolling and ship watching. More than 75 boutiques, galleries, artist's studios, restaurants and pubs are housed in one-time cotton warehouses that have been restored to their rustic beauty.

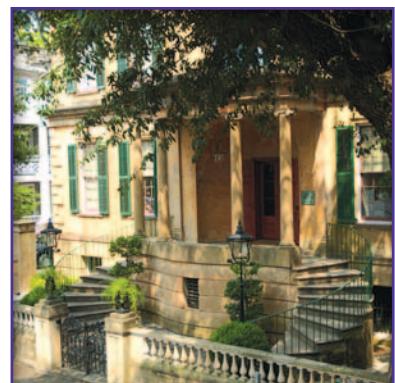
The Roundhouse Railroad Museum

Location: 601 Harris Street

Phone: 912.651.6823

Web site: www.chsgeorgia.org

Savannah's Central of Georgia Railway National Landmark District is the oldest and most complete antebellum railroad manufacturing and repair facility



still in existence in the United States. The Roundhouse Railroad Museum now has permanent exhibits in seven of the 13 structures on the site. This is one of the most extensive collections of rolling stock and machinery in Georgia. Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday - Friday and 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturday - Sunday.

Savannah History Museum

Location: 303 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Phone: 912.238.1779

Web site: www.chsgeorgia.org

Adjacent to the Savannah Visitor Information Center, the museum is operated by the Coastal Heritage Society. The structure is on the site of the 1779 siege of Savannah, a Revolutionary War battle. The attraction has artifacts and displays depicting Savannah's history, a film about the founding of the city and a diorama depicting the siege. Included in this collection is a large quantity of historic women's clothing and accessories from the 1800s to the present as well as military uniforms and weapons and railroad items. Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday and 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Saturday - Sunday.

Savannah Ogeechee Canal Museum & Nature Center

Located: 681 Ft. Argyle Road

Phone: 912.748.8068

Web site: www.socanalmuseum.com

Ogeechee Barge Canal is one of the prime relics in the history of southern canals. In cooperation with Chatham County's Department of Parks, Recreation

and Cultural Affairs, the Savannah-Ogeechee Canal Society is working to turn the canal into a multipurpose linear park. A half-mile walk along the Heel or Tow paths provides a delightful and attractive setting to enjoy this unique waterway. Hours of operations are seven days a week, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The Savannah Theater

Located: 222 Bull Street

Phone: 912.233.7764

Web site: www.SavannahTheater.com

The Savannah Theater opened its doors for the first time December 4 ,1818 with a production of the comedy "A Soldier's Daughter." Through the centuries and a few face lifts, the Savannah Theater houses the performance ensemble "Lost in the 50s" and remains the oldest continuously operating theater site in America.

The Ships of the Sea Museum

Location: 41 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Phone: 912.232.1511

Web site: www.shipsofthesea.org

William Jay designed this house for merchant prince William Scarbrough, one of the principal investors in the S.S. Savannah, the first steam vessel to cross the Atlantic. This maritime museum houses a large collection of ship models, artifacts and memorabilia representing man's 2,000 year quest to conquer the sea. Hours of operation are Tuesday - Sunday, from 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.

Tybee Island Marine Science Center

Location: 1510 Strand Avenue

Phone: 912.786.5917

Web site: www.tybeemsc.org

Discover the Atlantic Ocean's mysteries at the center where visitors can experience touch tanks, aquariums and year-round beach walks. Exhibits provide information on shells, sharks, marine mammals, sea turtles, marine pollution, the salt marsh and maritime forest all indigenous to the Georgia Coast.

There are classrooms for group programs and special events. Hours of operation are Monday, Wednesday and Sunday from 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. and Tuesday from 9a.m.- Noon.



Tybee Lighthouse and Museum

Location: Off U.S. 80 at Fort Screven

Phone: 912.786.5801

Web site: www.tybeelighthouse.com

Located on Tybee Island, the Lighthouse has been the guardian of the Savannah River since 1736. The existing 154-foot tall lighthouse was rebuilt in 1887. The museum was built in 1897 as a coastal artillery battery on Tybee Island. The museum features exhibits of early life on the Island, Indian and Civil War weaponry and dolls. Hours of operation Monday, Wednesday and Sunday from 9 a.m.- 5:30 p.m.

Telfair Museum of Art

Location: 121 Barnard Street

Phone: 912.232.1177

Web site: www.telfair.org

Designed and built in 1818 by William Jay, the Telfair Mansion was the site of the royal Governor's residence. The mansion contains many family furnishings. A large wing was added in 1883 which contains superb American and European paintings and sculpture. It is the oldest art museum in the South. Hours of operation are seven days a week, call for times.

Wormsloe State Historic Site

Location: 7601 Skidaway Road

Phone: 912.353.3023

Web site: www.wormsloe.org

Located on Isle of Hope, Wormsloe was settled by Noble Jones, one of Georgia's first colonists.

Wormsloe was received into the Jones family by a royal grant in 1756 and has remained the only Savannah plantation in possession by its original

owners until 1974, when it was given to Georgia Heritage Trust. This historic site has a visitor center with exhibits and audio-visual programming on Georgia's colonial period and is the site of the ruins of tabby fortification and the Fort Wimberly earthworks. Hours of operations are Tuesday-Saturday, 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. and Sunday, 2- 5:30 p.m. Closed on Mondays.



Historic Houses of Worship & Cemeteries

Savannah's roots are steeped in religion. General James Oglethorpe founded the colony of Georgia for those in pursuit of religious freedoms. People came and established the many congregations that still flourish in Savannah today. Savannah's history can be told in the chronicles of the Churches, Synagogues and Cathedrals that were cornerstones of Savannah's society then and now.

Historic Houses of Worship

Cathedral of St. John the Baptist

Location: 222 East Harris Street
Phone: 912.233.4709
Organized in the late 1700s, the cathedral is the oldest Roman Catholic Church in Georgia. The congregation erected its first house of worship on Liberty Square. The existing Gothic Cathedral was built in 1876 and received an \$11 million restoration in 2000.

Christ Episcopal Church

Location: 28 Bull Street
Phone: 912.232.8230
This is the site of the first church, then Anglican, established in the Savannah colony in 1733. Christ Church is often considered "The Mother Church of Georgia." The existing structure replaced two others and was erected in 1840. Pastor John Wesley founded what is thought to be the world's first Protestant Sunday school in 1735.

First African Baptist Church

Location: 23 Montgomery Street
Phone: 912.233.6597

The First African Baptist Church is one of the oldest continuous black congregation in America with its origins dating back to 1773 and the oldest brick church building in Georgia. Founded by George Liele, David George and Andrew Bryan who were three former slaves; the First African Baptist Church was constructed by slaves, for slaves in 1788. Built mostly by lantern light in the hours after many of the slaves had put in full days in the fields, First African Baptist is the oldest standing brick building in Georgia. Many of the church's original pews still bare the tribal markings of the African slaves that filled them. The church was also a refuge for slaves seeking freedom on the Underground Railroad. Air holes carved in a distinctive diamond pattern to disguise its true cause are still visible on the church's floor.

First Baptist Church

Location: 223 Bull Street
Phone: 912.234.2671

Organized in 1800, the First Baptist Church was granted a perpetual charter in 1801 by Governor Josiah Tattnall Jr. This church was one of the few churches along the Eastern Seaboard to offer regular services throughout the Civil War.

First Bryan Baptist Church

Location: 575 West Bryan Street
Phone: 912.232.5526

Founded by Andrew Bryan, a slave who purchased his own freedom, was ordained and his church certified in 1789. Father Bryan purchased the lots where First Bryan Baptist now stands in 1793 making the site the oldest continuously black owned piece of church property in America. This property has been a worship site for African-Americans for more than 200 years.

Independent Presbyterian Church

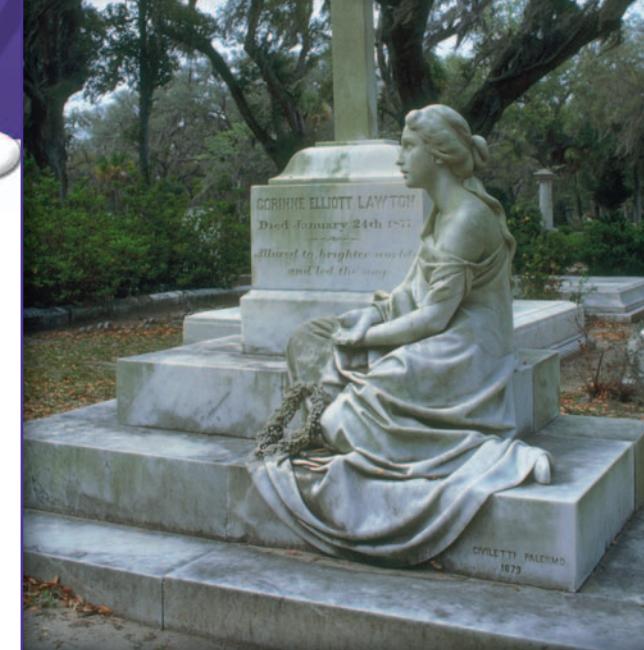
Location: 207 Bull Street
Phone: 912.236.3346

The Independent Presbyterian Church was founded in 1755. President Woodrow Wilson was married at the Church in 1885 to the pastor's daughter, Ellen Axon. The original building was lost to fire in 1889 and the church was then rebuilt and re-dedicated in 1890 at its present location.

Temple Mickve Israel

Location: 20 East Gordon Street
Phone: 912.233.1547

Built circa 1776, Temple Mickve Israel is the only Gothic style synagogue in America. The congregation was founded in July 1733, five months after the colonization of Georgia. It is the third-oldest Jewish congregation in America and the first established in the South. The synagogue houses the oldest Torah in America, and an adjoining museum contains 1,790 historical books of the congregation's activities and letters to the congregation from presidents Washington, Jefferson and Madison.



Second African Baptist Church

Location: 123 Houston Street
Phone: 912.233.6163

Formed in 1802 by Andrew Bryan, Second African Baptist was founded to accommodate the growing urban population in Savannah. It was on the steps of the Second African Baptist Church that General William T. Sherman and Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton met with 20 Black community leaders of Savannah to issue Special Field Order #15. On January 16, 1865 in Savannah, Georgia, Sherman proclaimed that each family would receive 40 acres of land and an army mule to work the land, thus ordering "forty acres and a mule." Almost a century later, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. preached his "I Have A Dream" sermon. Dr. King later addressed the nation with this famous sermon during his march on Washington, D.C.





St. John's Episcopal Church

Location: 1 West Macon Street
Phone: 912.232.1251

St. John's Episcopal Church was built in 1852. It is famous for its whimsical chimes and stained glass windows. The Green-Meldrim House, built in 1853, is the original parish house that is frequently opened to the public on weekends.

Saint Phillips Monumental A.M.E. Church

Location: 1112 Jefferson Street
Contact: 912.233.8547

St. Phillips is the first African Methodist Church in Georgia and was organized by Reverend A.L. Stanford in 1865. Demolished by a storm in 1896, the church was rebuilt and re-named Saint Phillips Monumental A.M.E. Church. In May 1961, the church moved to its current location from Hull Street.

Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church

Location: 429 Abercorn Street
Phone: 912.232.0191

Wesley Monumental was built through national fund-raising as a memorial to John and Charles Wesley, founders of the Methodist movement. John Wesley lived in Savannah during 1736-1737 while serving as rector of Christ Episcopal Church.

Savannah's Historic Cemeteries

Bonaventure Cemetery

Location: Bonaventure Road
Phone: 912.651.6843

On Bonaventure Road alongside the Wilmington River, beautiful Bonaventure Cemetery with its spectacular moss-draped oaks, camellias, azaleas and dogwoods was once a lavish plantation owned by Colonel Mulryne. Buried in Bonaventure are singer/songwriter Johnny Mercer, poet Conrad Akin and little Gracie. The cemetery is open from dawn until dusk.

Colonial Park Cemetery

Located: Abercorn Street and Oglethorpe Avenue
Phone: 912.651.6843

Once the burial ground for the Christ Church Parish, in 1789 it was enlarged to become the city cemetery for Christian people of all denominations. The cemetery was annexed by the Union Troops during their occupation of Savannah during the Civil War. Soldiers looted and desecrated graves changing many of the dates on many of the headstones. The cemetery is open to the public.

Laurel Grove Cemetery - North

Location: West 37 Street off Ogeechee Road
Contact: 912.651.6772

Laurel Grove was part of a plantation once owned by the Stiles family. The City of Savannah acquired the land in 1850 and it became the city's primary burial ground. The city created lanes for carriages and small parks for people to visit. The cemetery features detailed ironwork and ornate mausoleums.

Laurel Grove Cemetery - South

Location: West 37 Street off Ogeechee Road
Contact: 912.651.6772

Laurel Grove-South Cemetery is a significant visual record of African-American history in Savannah and the United States. In 1852, 15 acres of the Laurel Grove Cemetery were set aside as burial land for "free persons of color and slaves." Tombstones range from small markers with little or no ornamentation, to monumental markers with elaborately carved figures. Inscriptions on many of the tombstones record African-American history not included in written histories of the region.



Holidays & Festivals

"Top 10 Places to Watch a St. Patrick's Day Parade"

- USA Today



Savannah St. Patrick's Day

Irish eyes are smiling in Savannah every March 17. Our population doubles every year as Irish or Irish for the day pack the Savannah streets and Waterfront for St. Patrick's Day- "Savannah Style." Beer is not the only thing that flows emerald green during the holiday, every fountain within the city limits is dyed green in a ceremony that dates back more than 100 years. Green reigns supreme when everything from hair to dogs to even green eggs, grits and ham gets residents and visitors into the spirit of St. Patrick's Day.

Savannah has been celebrating her Irish heritage for more than a century. Traditional Irish values and customs of old are mingled with the vibrancy and charm of a city whose quirky personality comes out in both people who call Savannah home and those that are just here to visit.

Most do not know that the first parade was a small private affair, more than 180 years ago, for a group of men with Irish heritage to honor the anniversary of the death of St. Patrick, a Catholic priest.



Over the years, the parade has become a public event that grows in size every year. To this day, the true St. Patrick's Day celebration in Savannah remains a deeply religious family event that features authentic Irish music, Celtic dances and great food.

March and April are among the most beautiful months during the year in Savannah. Temperatures are often in the 70s and sunny with flowers in bloom. March and April are also the busiest months for tourism in Savannah, so pre-planning is a must when it comes to celebrating your St. Patrick's Day in Savannah.

Savannah has more than 13,000+ rooms in its inventory. Savannah's Southside and Midtown offer moderate rates while the Historic District's accommodations are in the heart of the community celebration. Rooms book well in advance for this historic celebration so revelers are encouraged to make reservations early.



Holidays in Savannah

Rejoice this holiday season at Southern Lights, a Savannah holiday celebration. Parades, concerts, tree lightings, cultural festivals and dazzling lights will fill Savannah's streets and shores with the spirit of the season. Experience twilight tours, marvelous shopping and traditional holiday dining that will bring a sentimental smile to your face. From Thanksgiving to New Year's Eve, see Savannah illuminated in her holiday best.

The holiday season in Savannah is a special time of year for residents and visitors alike. Standing in one of the city's historic squares, you'll be delighted by the sound of horse hooves and jingle bells coming from a passing carriage tour. All around you, red velvet bows paired with holiday evergreen and white lights, a Historic District custom, adorn light-posts and park benches, enchanting you with the romance of Savannah. Throughout the Historic District, front doors of colonial-style homes retain traditions of the colonial era and unmistakably reflect the spirit of the season.

The holidays in Savannah are filled with the inviting smells of traditional holiday fare, as holiday parties spill from the restaurants and squares of Savannah. The season kicks off with the lighting of the community Christmas tree complete with music and dance, the Lighted Christmas Parade along Savannah's Historic River Street where children get a first glimpse of Old Saint Nick, the Holiday Tour of Home where some of the Historic District's most beautiful mansions open

their doors to passers by and the Holiday Gallery Hop where Savannah's premier art galleries shine for the holiday season. Community events highlight the celebrations of Chanukah and Kwanza too as Savannah celebrates the diversity of the season. From shimmering lights to towering Christmas trees, you'll feel a renewed innocence that's sure to bring a sentimental smile. Chances are you'll agree, that spending the Holiday season in Savannah is a great way to celebrate the seasons.

Jingle Bells - Savannah's Song

Written by James Pierpont, Jr. in 1857 while he was serving as organist at Savannah's Unitarian Universalist Church, the song was originally copyrighted as "One Horse Open Sleigh" and later changed to "Jingle Bells." Many local historians believe that Pierpont penned "Jingle Bells" while in Savannah experiencing his first snowless winter as an ode to his Massachusetts snowy upbringing. Medford claims the song was penned in 1850 while Pierpont was living in Massachusetts.

Pierpont married a Savannah girl name Eliza Jane Purse who was the daughter of then Savannah Mayor Thomas Purse and after living a long wonderful life and with Jingle Bells being his only hit, his last wish was to be buried in his beloved Savannah. Pierpont is buried in Savannah's Laurel Grove Cemetery.



Savannah Festivals

Savannah is a festival city! With more than 200 city-wide festivals and events a year, Savannah has an exciting array of activities to entertain travelers of any age. Here's a sampling of the events and festivals held throughout the year. Visit www.SavannahVisit.com for a complete listing.

January

Martin Luther King Jr. Observance Day Celebrations

Savannah celebrates the life and times of this Civil Rights pioneer. www.savannahga.gov

February

Savannah Black Heritage Festival

Cultural and intellectual activities including dance performances, musical concerts, lectures, art exhibits and more. www.savstate.edu

Savannah Irish Festival

The Savannah Irish Festival Committee invites you to attend the 16th annual festival February 17-18 at the Savannah Civic Center arena in the Historic District. Performers include Harry O'Donoghue and Frank Emerson along with exciting performers and new groups. www.savannahirish.org

March

St. Patrick's Day Celebrations

It ain't easy being green - unless you're Savannah. How do you manage more than 250,000 weekend guests? You throw the South's most famous and the Southeast's largest St. Patrick's Day Celebration. The Historic District marks its St. Patrick's Day Celebration with festivities along the waterfront and a parade on March 17 where the streets are lined with revelers in green, and cocktails and grits are dyed to match.

- St. Patrick's Day Celebration in City Market
www.savannahcitymarket.com
- St. Patrick's Day Celebration on the River
www.riverstreetsavannah.com
- St. Patrick's Day Parade
www.savannahsaintpatricksday.com

Savannah Music Festival

This captivating celebration of the performing arts is held in Savannah's Historic District and features world-class music in downtown venues. The festival lasts for 15 days with numerous international talents including blues, classical, jazz and the world. www.savannahmusicfestival.org

Tour of Homes & Gardens

This annual spring event offers self-guided walking tours through private homes and gardens in Savannah's National Historic Landmark District. www.savannahtourofhomes.org

April

SCAD International Festival

The annual festival celebrates the college's international art community and shares it with the entire Savannah community. Highlights of the event include international cuisine, dance demonstrations, music, a global fashion show and art and cultural displays. www.scad.edu

N.O.G.S. Tour of Hidden Gardens

This walking tour includes eight walled gardens plus the award-winning Massie School garden. Different private gardens are selected each year for their excellence of design, historical interest and beauty. www.gcofsavannahnogstour.org

Sidewalk Art Festival

This annual event draws thousands of people to watch SCAD students create chalk masterpieces on the sidewalks of historic Forsyth Park along with a student and faculty art exhibition, a fair, food and children's and youth areas for young artists. www.scad.edu

Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf, PGA Champions Tour

Enjoy some of golf's all-time greatest players as they tee up at the home of the PGA TOUR of Champions, Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf; experience Troon Golf and The Club at Savannah Harbor. www.pga.tour.com

May

Savannah Scottish Games Festival

Traditional style Scottish Games Festival featuring competitions, clan displays and booths, food and drink, music of the bagpipes and other Scottish music. www.SavannahScottishGames.com

Tybee Island Beach Bum Parade

Celebrate the arrival of summer with a huge water fight. Parade of fellow water warriors enhances this family-friendly experience. www.tybeevist.com

SCAD Sand Arts Festival

This annual event invites sand-loving SCAD students to create forms in the sand on the beaches of Tybee Island. www.scad.edu



June

Savannah Asian Festival

Volunteers from many of Savannah's Asian organizations plan this public festival to showcase the talents of the Asian community in Savannah. www.savannahga.gov

July

Fourth of July on the Waterfront

Fantastic Fourth celebration featuring artists from around the region, food, fun and fabulous fireworks over the Savannah River. www.savriverstreet.com

Fourth of July Fireworks on the Beach

Tybee Island's Independence Day celebration with fireworks on the beach. www.tybeevist.com

August

Tybee Island Seafood & Music Festival

This two-day event features local and national music acts and Tybee Island cuisine. www.tybeevist.com

September

Savannah Jazz Festival

A wonderful week-long celebration of blues and jazz that promotes, preserves and perpetuates this exquisite art form through performances by great musicians throughout the Coastal Empire. www.coastaljazz.com

October

Oktoberfest

It's an oompah stomping, dachshund dashing, bratwurst tasting and beverage toasting weekend with your friends on the river. Featuring arts and crafts, live entertainment, oompah bands, wiener dog races, fabulous food and much more! www.savriverstreet.com

Savannah Greek Festival

The three-day Greek Festival includes authentic Greek foods and pastries, merchandise, grocery products and live music with Nick Demos and the Greek Islanders. www.stpaul.ga.goarch.org

Savannah Film Festival

The festival features the best in independent, innovative and influential films and videos from around the world, as well as panel discussions and presentations by visiting artists. www.scad.edu

Jewish Food Festival

Experience a taste of our Jewish food with all the flavors of Jewish heritage. www.mickveisrael.org

St. Vincent's Tour of Homes and Tea

Tour some of Savannah's premier Historic District homes and have afternoon tea in the convent of St. Vincent's Academy. www.SVATourofHomes.com

November

Savannah Seafood Festival on the River

Sensational seafood, live entertainment, local art, crafts, daily beach party bash and much more. www.savriverstreet.com

Savannah Harbor Boat Parade of Lights

Bring the family to enjoy the kick-off of the Savannah Harbor Holiday Series on the waterfront. More than 60 festively decorated yachts and sailboats parade along the Savannah River. Followed by a fireworks extravaganza. Part of Southern Lights, a Savannah Holiday Celebration.

Southern Lights Tree of Lights

This event is Savannah's longest standing tradition of lighting the community Christmas Tree. Sing-a-longs and entertainment highlight the evening. Part of Southern Lights, a Savannah Holiday Celebration. www.SavannahVisit.com

Southern Lights, a Savannah Holiday Celebration

Join us for parades, concerts, the lighting of the community Christmas tree, cultural festivals and dazzling lights that fill the streets and shores with the spirit of the season. From Thanksgiving to New Year's. www.SavannahVisit.com

December

Savannah Christmas on the River

Dash your way to River Street for a merry holiday. Arts and crafts to finish your list, the lighted Christmas parade can't be missed! Carolers, bells, Santa too, a festive party that's meant for you! Part of Southern Lights, a Savannah Holiday Celebration. www.SavannahVisit.com

Southern Lights Gallery Hop

Enjoy traveling via holiday trolley to Savannah's premier art galleries. Event opens and ends with holiday receptions. www.SavannahVisit.com

Holiday Tour of Homes

Enjoy a self-guided walking tour of homes in Savannah's lovely Historic District. Private residences representing the full range of the downtown neighborhood will be open to the public. Part of Southern Lights, a Savannah Holiday Celebration. www.dnaholidaytour.net

City Market New Year's Eve Celebration

Ring in the New Year at City Market! It's an outdoor street party, and you are invited to join in the fun with live music and entertainment for the whole family. Part of Southern Lights, a Savannah Holiday Celebration. www.savannahcitymarket.com



Shopping, Dining & Nightlife

"Top 12 Trendy Travel Hot Spots of the World"

- New York Times



Low Country Cuisine

Entertaining is one of Savannah's favorite customs, and food is deeply embedded in Low Country traditions. Dishes often reflect Savannah's respect for tradition, ethnic population and quirky persona that makes Savannah a professional when it comes to Southern hospitality.

Local favorites range from all the delicacy of the Georgia Coast and modern American favorites, to down-home cooking and international cuisine all served with a tall glass of ice tea, sweetened of course. All presented with perfection by area chefs whose personalities and gifts are presented in the dishes they prepare.

Local chefs prepare meals from the kitchens of boarding houses and cafés where fried chicken and home-made biscuits are passed around the tables where strangers become friends and patrons become family. Steaming platters of fresh seafood is served in seaside bungalows blended with all the feisty spices of the Caribbean.

In the stately grand mansions and restored façades of the Historic District, dishes are served with precision and care. Here, the ambiance and service is only rivaled by the eclectic blend of flavors and superior ingredients that are fused together with all the grace and charm of the South.

Savannahians like to take their love for food outdoors. Some highly enjoyed casual meals are outdoor barbeques, oyster roasts on the beach and a coastal favorite known as the Lowcountry boil. This popular concoction consists of boiled shrimp, corn on the cob, onions, sausage and potatoes all boiled together and dumped on long tables where party-goers stand and devour the feast. Cocktails flow as freely in Savannah as the water of the Savannah River so don't forget to ask for the "to-go cup" from your favorite restaurant or pub.

It was the bounty of the Southern plantation lands, the warm breezes of the mild Low Country climate and the fresh and salt waters of the Atlantic and its tidal creeks that produced the means by which Southern hospitality became a legend. Warm summers forced kitchens in the plantation home to be separate from the main house. This separation caused a division between the family of the plantation and the black cooks that eventually led to a specialized labor force that turned slaves into America's first group of professional chefs. The secrets of those plantation cooks were handed down verbally over the decades and remain a key ingredient of the culinary community in Savannah today.

Savannah is known for her timeless beauty, seductive charms and gracious hospitality; and entertaining comes as naturally as her Low Country surroundings and ingredients that make her fare unique. Taste the traditions of old and sample the flavors of new in Savannah.



Shopping in Savannah

The old adage "shop till you drop" takes on a renewed spirit in Savannah, where shops and boutiques adorn every corner of the Historic District fueling American's favorite vacation past time - shopping.

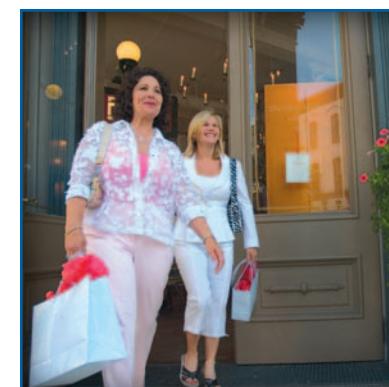
Savannah's diverse population has helped create an eclectic blend of shopping, celebrating everything from traditional antiques to Bohemian-styled arts and apparel. Broughton Street and City Market's shopping appeals to the trendsetting eccentric who has a flare for the dramatic while appreciating the latest themes in fashion, home furnishings and gourmet fare. A myriad of quirky boutiques, gifts and home décor shops, along with national name brand stores designate these shopping areas.

Savannah is one of America's most diverse shopping communities where treasures of old are awaiting to be unearthed at one of the many antique shops and vintage boutiques in the Historic District. Savannah's antique shops appeal to the traditionalist whose passion for history and customs of old are expressed through the love of antiques. Vast collections of 18th and 19th century English and American furnishings, period paintings,

architectural iron and vintage books and maps can be discovered as you explore the streets of Savannah peeking into her more than 60 antique shops.

Those looking for some funky fashions or that "must-have" knickknack can benefit from the artistic soul of Savannah that has turned one time Savannah of College Art and Design Students in to entrepreneurs.

Visit Savannah's Historic River Street and explore candy shops, art galleries and a number of nautical-themed apparel and gift stores. Old cotton warehouses and cobblestone sidewalks are the setting for shopping along Savannah's most famous street where ships glide up the Savannah River and people watching is a spectator sport. River Street cafés and pubs offer great cuisine, regional libations and exciting nightlife after the day's shopping is done.



The Southside of Savannah is home to two malls and a blend of shopping plazas with your choice of national brands. Savannah's malls are great places for family outings with shopping food and activities for kids.



Savannah's Nightlife

Hear jazz and blues—or bluegrass. Go salsa or swing dancing. Sing along in a piano bar or puff away in a cigar bar. Savannah offers evening tours, outdoor concerts and frequent fireworks and festivals, along with late-night hot spots. Theoretically, you could stay out all night—although we do suggest that you get some sleep to keep up with the daytime fun.

City Market and River Street offer exciting nightlife all within walking distance of most of Savannah's Historic District accommodations and Savannah's famous "to-go" cups make bar hopping in this saucy city a favorite evening activity.

The Historic District is home to the Savannah Theater, the oldest continually operating theater in America and their fantastic permanent show Jukebox Journey. Dance and sing as this ensemble cast performs hits from every decade five nights a week.

Savannah by night would not be complete without a ghost tour. Savannah has a thousand ghost stories to tell and several interesting and unique ways to get you spooked! Walking lantern tours, horse and carriage rides under the stars, hearse tours or the haunted pub crawl are just a few ways you can explore America's Most Haunted City.

A photograph of a man in a brown jacket and hat walking away from the camera on a city street. He is carrying a small suitcase. In the background, there are two vintage cars and several signs, including one for "AYER'S PILLS" and another for "BENHARDT". The scene is set against a red background with decorative white scrollwork.

Famous Faces



"Top 200 Places in the Country"

- FORBES Magazine



Famous Faces

Throughout history, Savannah has been home to many individuals who have shaped the course of our nation. From songwriters and movie stars to the founders of this great nation; the influential, famous and even infamous have often began their life journeys in our city.

Savannah has been home to numerous political, religious and social leaders. Button Gwinnett was an original signer of the Declaration of Independence. John Wesley, founder of Methodism, established America's first Sunday school here in Savannah and James Lord Pierpont wrote several popular songs while living in Savannah including the holiday classic "Jingle Bells."

Juliette Gordon Low, founder of Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., was born in Savannah and held the first meeting of the Girl Scouts at her home on Lafayette Square on March 12, 1912. This small gathering of girls started the organization that would have an impact on the lives of more than 50 million women worldwide.

Conrad Aiken was born in Savannah in 1889. He would go on to attend Harvard University,

where he befriended fellow student T.S. Eliot. The two became lifelong friends and literary peers. Over a period of nearly 50 years, Conrad Aiken published poems, essays, short stories, novels and literary criticism. He won a Pulitzer Prize for Selected Poems and a National Book Award for Collected Poems. A marker to Aiken lies in the median on Oglethorpe Avenue. Aiken is buried in Bonaventure Cemetery.

Flannery O'Connor is considered one of America's greatest fiction writers. She was born in Savannah in 1925 and was the author of such dark classics as *Wiseblood* and *The Violent Bear it Away*. While her novels received little critical acclaim during her life, her stories are now considered classics of American literature. The Flannery O'Connor family home is now a museum in Savannah that is dedicated to her life's work.



John Herndon Mercer was born in 1909 into the fourth generation of Mercers living in Savannah. Johnny Mercer is recognized as one of America's most popular and successful songwriters of the 20th century. Between 1929 and 1976 Mercer composed lyrics to more than 1,000 songs, received 19 Academy Award nominations,

wrote music for a number of Broadway shows, and co-founded Capitol Records. Mercer penned such tunes as "Jeepers Creepers," "You Must Have Been a Beautiful Baby," "Hooray for Hollywood," "Chattanooga Choo Choo," "That Old Black Magic" and Savannah's own "Moon River." Mercer is buried in Bonaventure Cemetery.

Also well known in the entertainment field are Savannah natives Stacy Keach, star of TV's "Mike Hammer" series; Diana Scarwid, who has starred in several motion pictures, including "Mommie Dearest" and "What Lies Beneath" and Antoine Patton, "Big Boi" from the Grammy winning hip-hop duo, Outkast.

Savannah is also the proud hometown of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. Justice Thomas was appointed by President Bush in 1991 to the highest court in the land which is a long ways away from the tiny village of Pinpoint near Savannah's Southside where he was raised. Justice Thomas is America's second black Supreme Court Justice and the second Savannahian to serve on the high court. James Moore Wayne served on the Supreme Court 100 years before Thomas.

Food Network sensation Paula Deen is another celebrity who is proud to call Savannah home. This restaurateur, cook, writer and Emmy Award-winning TV personality owns The Lady & Son's Restaurant with her sons, Jamie and Bobby Deen in Savannah's Landmark Historic District. Deen parlayed old family recipes and the joy of cooking into one of Savannah's most successful business and a burgeoning television career. Deen can be seen on the Food Network shows "Paula's Home Cooking" and "Paula's Party" which she films from her home in Savannah.





Savannah on Film

Savannah over the years has become the fictional home of some of the silver screen's most memorable movies including "Forrest Gump," "Roots," "Gator," "Glory," "Something to Talk About," "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil," "Forces of Nature," "The General's Daughter," and the Robert Redford golf epic, "Legend of Bagger Vance." Hollywood loves Savannah because our beautiful Historic District and Low Country landscape make an instant movie set. While in Savannah take a movie tour and see the sights featured in some of pop culture's favorite films.

Savannah's Filmography

2000	"The Gift"	1989	"The Rose and the Jackal" "Flight of the Intruder" "Glory"
1999	"The Legend of Bagger Vance"	1988	"The Return of Swampthing" "The Judas Project"
1998	"Forces of Nature" "The General's Daughter"	1987	"My Father My Son" "1969" "War Stories"
1997	"The Gingerbread Man" "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" "Claudine's Return"	1986	"Pals"
1996	"Wild America"	1983	"Solomon Northup Odyssey"
1995	"Something to Talk About"	1981	"Tales of Ordinary Madness"
1994	"Now and Then"	1980	"The Slayer" "White Death" "Scared to Death" "When the Circus Came to Town" "Cape Fear" "East of Eden" "Mother Seton"
1993	"Forrest Gump" "Camilla"	1979	"Gold Bug" "The Ordeal of Dr. Mudd" "Orphan Train" "Hopscotch" "Carny"
1990	"Goldenboy" "Love Crimes"	1978	"The Double McGuffin"
		1977	"The Lincoln Conspiracy"
		1976	"Roots"
		1975	"Gator"



Meetings & Conventions

"Savannah is big enough to serve, and small enough to know you."

- Association of Paroling Authorities International



Meetings in Savannah

Meeting attendees always seem to fall in love with Savannah and quickly spread the word to all their friends and colleagues. Maybe it's our traditional hospitality, quirky personality or both. Our city allows everyone to experience the history, elegance and grace of the South while enjoying our broad range of meeting facilities, array of accommodations and our variety of restaurants and attractions.

Getting to Savannah is also a breeze at the Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport. From easy-to-navigate concourses, top-notch business center and a host of other modern conveniences the Savannah/Hilton Head Airport is committed to making visitor feel welcome. Minutes from historic downtown, the Airport has eight airlines, 15 gates, 15 non-stop destinations, and 42 daily departures.

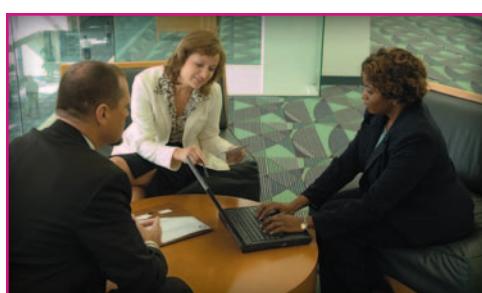
Amid Savannah's antebellum splendor, you'll find some spacious, and surprisingly contemporary, meeting sites. There's the 330,000-square-foot Savannah International Trade & Convention Center, with plentiful meeting and exhibit space and fantastic views of the waterfront; the 25,000-square-foot Savannah Civic Center; and several other convention and meeting facility locations offering 10,000 square feet or more of space.

The Historic Meetings District includes 3,300 hotel rooms, all at different price points to accommodate

everyone. Group transportation is also made easy; with everything from pedicabs and limousines to trolley cars and river ferries, getting around is easy, entertaining and very unique. Savannah offers up to 1,500 committable rooms on peak nights in centrally located hotels—along with outstanding meeting facilities, unique off-site venues and frequent, affordable air service.

Across the river at Savannah Harbor, The Savannah International Trade & Convention Center blends the best of the old and new to offer a unique venue for your next convention. This gleaming 330,000 square foot waterfront complex features 100,000 square feet of prime meeting space including 13 meeting rooms, four executive board rooms, a 25,000 square feet Grand Ballroom and a state-of-the-art auditorium.

www.SavannahMeetings.com



Savannah & the Georgia Coast

"Top 8 Places to Retire"

- MONEY Magazine



Tybee Island

Drive 20 minutes east of Savannah, through a few miles of wide sky and salt marshes. This is where you'll find Tybee Island, Savannah's beach. Perhaps one of the most laid-back location on the southeastern coast, Tybee is a nature lover's paradise.

The Native Americans who once inhabited the island named it Tybee meaning "salt." The Island's early history included occupations by the Spanish, English, French, the Confederacy and even pirates.

Tybee's location in the Southern coast made Tybee an important fortification during many of America's wars. Tybee's Fort Screven was a site used during the Spanish-American War. Just west of the island on U.S. Highway 80 is Fort Pulaski, a colossal brick edifice that played a vital role in the Civil War. The Tybee Lighthouse is Georgia's oldest and tallest lighthouse towering over the coastline at 154 feet.

Today sand, sea and salty breezes give Tybee a charm all her own. Combined with a dash of history, fresh local cuisine, an array of outdoor adventures and friendly natives, there's a guaranteed draw to Tybee Island.

Tybee Island offers an assortment of activities for nature bound explorers; visitors can choose from boat cruises and fishing trips to kayaking, bike riding and bird watching through the surrounding Low Country.

Tybee Marine Science Center offers beach walks and touch tanks to help us better understand the creatures of the sea. On warm days, dolphins can be seen playing from the shore or by guided tour, much to the delight of kids of all ages.

After exploring the sites, make time to sample our famous Lowcountry cuisine. Fresh bounties from the sea are prepared to perfection by many eclectic restaurants located on Tybee. Local restaurants serve up delicious meals featuring Caribbean flare and American favorites along with fresh local seafood like crab, oysters, shrimp and fish.

Tybee Island features a wide variety of lodging accommodations. Whether you are coming for the weekend, spending a couple of weeks or celebrating a special occasion, Tybee has deluxe hotel accommodations, quaint sea-side cottages and charming B&B's perfect for any budget.



Savannah and the Georgia Coast

Savannah and Tybee Island sit atop the 100 miles of Georgia coastline that stretches from South Carolina to Florida. Often referred to as the Low Country, this area of flat landscape and meandering creeks is framed by peninsulas and coves of moss-laden live oaks.

The Low Country is home to many species of migrating birds. During the winter months, thousands of mallards, pintails, teal and as many as 10 other species of ducks migrate into the area, joining resident wood ducks on the coastal refuges. In the spring and fall, transient songbirds stop briefly on their journeys to and from Northern nesting grounds.

The Golden Isles are barrier islands between the Atlantic Ocean and the mainland. They are an integral part of a continuous chain of similar islands and beaches stretching from Maine to Texas that protects the coast from storms.



Behind the barrier islands lie Georgia's salt marshes, which provide organic material that moves into the sea to become a vital link in the maritime food chain. These marshes are home to countless marine organisms, including shrimp, crabs and oysters. Eco-based tourism is a burgeoning market drawing millions to the coast following state birding trails. More than 300 species of birds have been spotted along the Georgia coast.

Georgia's Barrier Islands

- Tybee Island *
- Skidaway Island *
- Ossabaw Island
- Wassaw Island
- St. Catherine's Island
- Sapelo Island
- Little St. Simons Island
- St. Simons Island *
- Jekyll Island *
- Cumberland Island

*Accessible via roadways





Savannah's Surrounding Communities

Like Savannah, Est. 1733, many of the surrounding communities have history and charm all their own. These charming communities make a perfect day-trip while you are in Savannah.

Ebenezer

Effingham County Georgia
www.Ebenezer.georgia.gov

Founded in 1734 by a group of Austrian Sulzberger exiles, the town of Ebenezer was named by the colony of Georgia founder James Oglethorpe. Meaning "stone of help" Ebenezer is located 21 miles up the Savannah River in Effingham County and was the "Silk Capital" of the new world, some seasons shipping up to 2,000 pounds of raw silk to England each year. The Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Ebenezer was completed in 1769 and remains the oldest standing church in Georgia.



Midway

Liberty County Georgia
www.midwayga.gov

Located in Liberty County between Savannah and Darien, Midway has had a long and notable history. Settled in 1754 by English Puritans, the Midway Society was a Congregationalist group in which Christianity and daily living were closely interrelated. The Midway settlers prospered by developing a strong, agriculturally based economy. Their wealth came from the cultivation of rice, indigo and other crops. Historic landmarks include the Midway Congregational Church and Cemetery. The early Midway church building was destroyed during the Revolutionary War. The present church building was completed in 1792 and has not been modernized. The Midway Museum is Georgia's only colonial museum.



Richmond Hill

Bryan County Georgia
www.richmondhill-ga.gov

Richmond Hill is, situated on the Ogeechee River 15 miles south of Savannah in Bryan County. It is best known as the winter residence of the automotive pioneer Henry Ford during the 1930s and 1940s. Ford built schools, medical clinics and commercial and community buildings helping the small community prosper. Richmond Hills' history dates to the earliest days of the colony, when General James Oglethorpe built Fort Argyle near the Ogeechee and Canoochee Rivers. Today with the building of interstate highways in the area and the influx of Chatham County residents into Bryan County, Richmond Hill has experienced fast growth. In 2000, Richmond Hill was named one of the fastest-growing towns in Georgia.

Beaufort, South Carolina

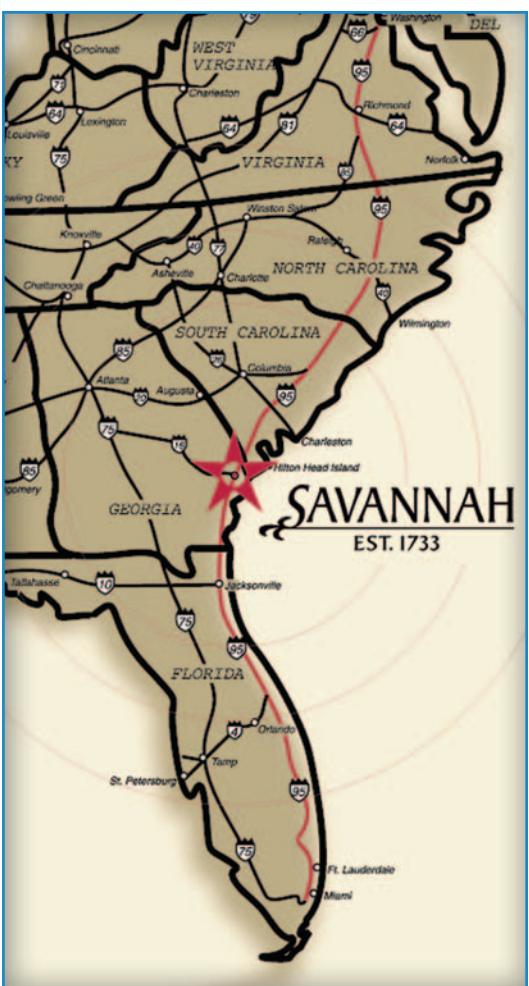
www.beaufortsc.org

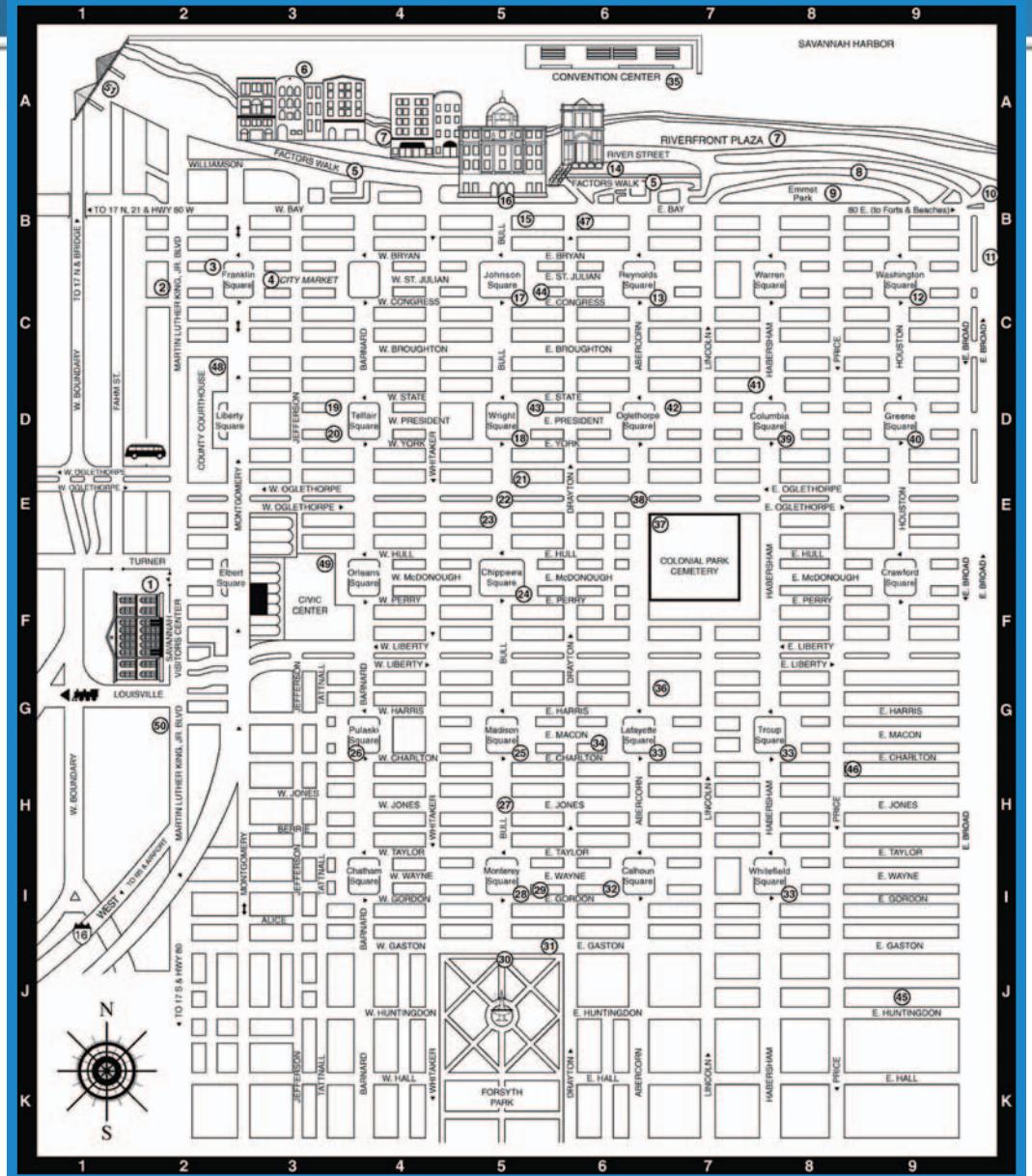
Europeans made their first appearance with Spanish galleons around 1521. Beaufort entered its golden era about 1800, when wealthy planters built many of Beaufort's loveliest mansions. Today, reminders of the area's colorful history abound in architecture preserved with loving care and folkways honored across generations. The entire downtown Beaufort area is designated a historic district. Architecture from many grand cultures and eras includes French, Colonial, Spanish-American, and Revolutionary origins. At least 90 significant homes, forts, churches, cemeteries, inns, and other buildings are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Hilton Head Island, South Carolina

www.hiltonheadisland.org

Hilton Head Island is a barrier island located off the Atlantic Coast of South Carolina 45 miles north of Savannah and the surrounding Lowcountry. The island offers a unique blend of recreational, environmental and cultural amenities - including 12 miles beach, world-class golf, award-winning dining, and fantastic shopping. The Island's Lowcountry geography features a pristine natural environment and has fertile salt marshes, lagoons and creeks.





Historic District Map

1. Visitor Information Center
2. Ships of the Sea Museum
3. First African Baptist Church
4. City Market
5. Factors Walk
6. West End of River Street
7. Riverfront Plaza/River Street
8. Waving Girl Monument/
1996 Olympic Monument
9. Emmet Park
10. Fort Wayne
11. Trustee's Garden Village
12. Washington Square
13. Reynolds Square
14. Cotton Exchange
15. U.S. Customs House
16. City Hall
17. Johnson Square
18. Wright Square
19. Telfair Museum of Art
20. Trinity United Methodist Church
21. Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace
22. Oglethorpe Avenue
23. Independent Presbyterian
Church
24. Chippewa Square
25. Madison Square
26. Pulaski Square
27. Jones Street
28. Monterey Square
29. Temple Mickve Israel
30. Forsyth Park
31. Gaston Street
32. Wesley Monumental United
Methodist Church
33. Whitefield, Troup and
Lafayette Squares
34. Andrew Low House
35. Savannah International Trade
& Convention Center
36. Cathedral of St. John the
Baptist
37. Colonial Park Cemetery
38. Oglethorpe Avenue
39. Columbia Square
40. Greene Square
41. Davenport House
42. Owens-Thomas House
43. Lutheran Church of the
Ascension
44. Christ Episcopal Church
45. King-Tisdell Foundation and
Cottage
46. Beach Institute
47. Savannah Area Chamber of
Commerce
48. Chatham County Courthouse
49. Savannah Civic Center
50. Historic Railroad Shops
51. The Eugene Talmadge
Memorial Bridge



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