

Gardens and Historic Houses of Savannah & Charleston

Including the Festival of Houses & Gardens

Escorted by Cheryl & Robert Nichols
April 5-12, 2021

Join us as we discover Savannah and Charleston, two jewels of the antebellum south. From oak-shaded squares, riverfront parks and world-renowned restaurants to historic homes and gardens, we will experience the charm and hospitality of these historic cities.



Monday, April 5

Independent arrivals Savannah. Make your way by Taxi or Uber to the Planter's Inn for our three night stay.

The Planter's Inn is a small boutique hotel, centrally located in the historic district, on Reynold's Square, walking distance to the Riverfront and restaurants. The hotel offers free Wi-fi and Continental breakfast daily. Evening is at leisure.

Tuesday, April 6

After breakfast we will enjoy a Historic Savannah walking tour. Savannah will reveal surprises and long kept 'secrets'. We'll learn what makes her so fascinating that people return again and again, always to gain new insights into her charm and mystique. Within this 2.2 square mile area, beautiful streets and squares have a tale to tell at every corner...255 years of history are spoken eloquently in exquisite ironwork and ancient cobblestones, in splendid mansions, gardens, and picturesque cottages. We will be introduced to America's finest living collection of eighteenth and nineteenth century buildings, located in Savannah's National Historic Landmark District. Our tour will include the Davenport House which reflects the lifestyle of a middle-class family living in the early 1820's. A Rhode Island master builder, who was trained as a ship builder, completed the home in 1820. Using the knowledge he gained from his New England home and copying what he could find in current architectural texts, Davenport created this quintessential example of traditional Federal style architecture. After the tour, we will gather in the garden to sip lemonade.

Also included is a guided tour of the gardens at the Ships of the Sea Maritime Museum housed in the William Scarbrough House. The design for the Scarbrough Garden is derived from a typical 19th century parlor garden. Careful attention has been paid to the plant material. With few exceptions, all plant material is native or has been available since the early to mid-1800s. Tonight our welcome dinner is at the famous Olde Pink House Restaurant. **Breakfast-Dinner**

Wednesday, April 7

Today Savannah residents will welcome us into their private homes and/or gardens in the Historic District of Savannah. Our tour will feature three beautiful and historically significant private residences in the colonial city dating back to 1733. As we walk or ride between each garden, our guide will tell us about the interesting history of Colonial Georgia as well as about each garden that we will be visiting. We will also learn about the history and importance of Savannah's Urban Forest while walking through Forsyth Park and we'll visit the Garden on Fragrance. The garden, located in Forsyth Park, originally began in 1959, is surrounded by three walls to help contain the fragrance of the many scented plants. The entrance to the garden is enhanced by beautiful iron gates from the Old Union Station.

Our lunch today will be Tea at Gryphon Tea Room housed in an adapted turn-of-the-century pharmacy. The servers are students at the local Art & Design College.

The rest of the afternoon and evening are free to explore Savannah. **Breakfast-Lunch**



Thursday, April 8

After breakfast we travel by private motor coach from Savannah to Beaufort, South Carolina. Beaufort is a city on Port Royal Island, one of South Carolina's coastal Sea Islands. It was founded in 1711 and known for its antebellum mansions. We will enjoy a private walking tour of the historic district including visits to two private gardens. En route to Charleston we will stop for a look at the Angel Oak Tree on John's Island. Angel Oak is a Southern live oak (*Quercus virginiana*). The tree is estimated to be 400-500 years old. It stands 66.5 ft tall and measures 28 ft in circumference.

Our accommodations for four nights in Charleston are at the **French Quarter Inn**. This lovely boutique hotel offers true Southern hospitality. Travel + Leisure and Conde Nast Traveler consistently call the inn one of the country's best hotels. The inn offers daily breakfast, afternoon snacks and a nightly wine & cheese reception. Rooms have free Wi-fi and a mini-fridge. Also included are complimentary bicycles.

We will attend the Glorious Gardens walking tour mid-afternoon. Colorful blooms are found in many of the gardens while others display elegant, limited palettes of green and white. Scale and proportion are deftly used to compliment each house, whether it has a small courtyard space or a series of garden rooms. The tour ends with a wine reception in the garden of the Nathaniel Russel House Museum. **Breakfast-Lunch**

Friday, April 9

This morning we travel east of Charleston across the river bridges to the town of Mount Pleasant. In the Old Village neighborhood there are antebellum homes and a sleepy old-time village center. We will visit two lovely private gardens. We return to Charleston for a light lunch at the French Quarter while we listen to a short lecture on Shade Gardens.

Afternoon free for individual pursuits. We could explore the Battery with its famous South of Broad neighborhood and White Point Gardens while strolling past charming homes and iconic buildings until reaching the tip of the Charleston peninsula that overlooks Fort Sumter, where the Civil War began.



The French Quarter Inn overlooks the Historic Charleston City Market, a delightful, several-block-long collection of artisan stalls, antique stands, and culinary (and spice) purveyors. This is also where we'll find locals weaving the iconic sweetgrass baskets. Or we could visit one of the great mansions such as the Aiken-Rhett House, Nathaniel Russell House or take in the Charleston Museum or Gibbes Museum of Art.

We'll meet late afternoon in the hotel lounge for a glass of wine, followed by an evening at leisure to

sample the many wonderful restaurants the city has to offer. **Breakfast-lunch**

Saturday, April 10

This morning begins with a Historic Walking Tour of Charleston. We'll stroll with our guide down lovely streets and lanes and view the marvelous architecture of homes built more than a century ago. The window boxes are amazing! We'll peak into the lush private gardens of this quaint old city and breathe the aroma of tea olive and other fragrant plants.

A highlight of this tour will be a visit to Mrs. Whaley's Garden, an exquisite garden created by a native Charlestonian. We will also visit the Heyward-Washington House, c. 1772, which houses the finest collection of Charleston made furniture in the city and has a lovely English Garden and see Catfish Row, the inspiration for the American opera, "Porgy and Bess". We will enjoy lunch at 82 Queen, a 300-year-old address, in downtown Charleston's historic French Quarter known for its hospitality and fresh local cuisine.

Breakfast-Lunch

Sunday, April 11

After breakfast we depart by coach to visit two of America's earliest plantations and gardens: Magnolia Gardens and Middleton Place. Magnolia Gardens and Plantation founded by the Drayton family in 1680, is considered one of the most beautiful romantic gardens in the world.



As we stroll the garden paths with a resident horticulturalist, we'll see a Cypress Swamp which was turned into a garden by the Rev. John Drayton prior to the War Between the States. The beauty of these unique gardens will take our breath away. After touring the gardens we board the Nature Train which will take us into part of the Audubon Swamp Garden, home to scores of water loving creatures and traversed by boardwalks, dikes, and bridges to put the visitor in close contact with its inhabitants. We may even see an alligator and will have the opportunity to view the abundant bird population of the lowcountry. Later we visit Middleton Place, a Registered National Historic Landmark and the plantation home of the Middleton family since 1741 which boasts the oldest formal gardens in America and has stables where one is treated to a bird's-eye view of life on an 18th century working plantation. While at Middleton we'll tour the remaining wing of the Middleton House furnished with heirlooms from the Middleton family and enjoy a picnic lunch. Our farewell dinner this evening is in a private room at the Peninsula Grill, a Relais & Chateaux property. **Breakfast-Lunch-Dinner**

Monday, April 12. Independent departures. **Breakfast**

The Charleston itinerary is subject to change once the exact date of the Garden Festival is set.

FLIGHTS--where to meet the tour: The tour begins in Savannah on April 5. Due to many late flight arrivals there are no activities planned that day. The tour ends in Charleston on April 12.

If you would like to add an extra night in Savannah before the tour, please let us know as soon as possible. The hotels are very busy and space is subject to availability.

If you would like help with air reservations please contact Leslie Garber of Cadence Travel or your travel agent. Leslie charges a fee for her service, but our guests find her service to be of value. She can also assist with travel insurance. Leslie.garber@cadencetravel.com (619) 756 7388

TRAVEL INSURANCE: We strongly encourage all guests to purchase travel insurance in case of injury or illness during the tour and to protect against cancellation penalties. Leslie Garber of Cadence Travel can provide quotations and assistance acquiring appropriate insurance for this tour. Guests should consider insurance purchase at the time of deposit as certain benefits as to pre-existing conditions are available. Leslie Garber can provide more detailed information.

LAND COST PER GUEST: Based on a minimum of 20 paying guests, \$3420.00 per person Single supplement is \$1498.00. There are a limited number of rooms with 2 beds available in Savannah. A nonrefundable deposit of \$400 per person is required to secure a reservation.

The Land Package Includes:

- 3 nights at the Planter's Inn, Savannah- a friendly, small boutique hotel
- 4 nights at the French Quarter, Charleston- a deluxe boutique hotel
- Breakfast daily, 5 Lunches, 2 Dinners, 7 wine & cheese receptions
- Local guides and transportation as noted in the itinerary
- Taxes & entrance fees to all gardens and sightseeing mentioned in the itinerary
- Escorted by Cheryl & Robert Nichols

Not Included in Tour Price:

Excess baggage fees; personal expenses such as room service, beverages and laundry; personal communications charges; airfare; sightseeing or meals not specified in the itinerary; personal insurance coverage (strongly recommended), gratuities.

To make a reservation, please complete and submit an online or printed booking form and send your deposit check to:

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