



Come Travel with Us on our

Southern Porches Tour

March 17-24, 2022

Day 1 Thursday, March 17, 2022 – Welcome to Charleston, South Carolina

Welcome aboard as our morning flight takes us to **Charleston, South Carolina**. Upon our arrival we check into our hotel to freshen up. This evening we have dinner at the famous **Charleston Crab House**, a family owned and operated restaurant for over 27 years. Using only the freshest ingredients available, we enjoy fresh seafood dining at its best along with amazing water views of **Wappoo Creek** and **Wappoo Creek Bridge**.

Overnight: Hotel Indigo/Mt. Pleasant, SC

Meals: Dinner

Day 2 Friday, March 18, 2022 – Fort Sumter, Boone Hall Plantation, Cooking Class

This morning we take a **Cruise to Fort Sumter National Monument** that is located on an island in **Charleston Harbor** and only accessible by boat. Decades of growing political tension around the issue of slavery between the North and South had erupted into a Civil War on April 12, 1861 when Confederate artillery opened fire on this **Federal Fort** in **Charleston Harbor**. **Fort Sumter** surrendered 34 hours later and it would take nearly four years before Union forces would be able to take it back. Upon our return to Charleston, pull up a chair, grab a pint glass, and enjoy the *Bavarian Inspired* atmosphere of a **Southern prepared lunch (included)** at the popular **Bay Street Biergarten**, where they combine the communal atmosphere of a traditional German Biergarten with the newest technology in bier. This afternoon we visit **Boone Hall Plantation & Gardens**, touted as “a must see stop on any trip to Charleston” by NBC Daytime and you will see why it is known as “America’s Most Photographed Plantation.” Experience live presentations that you won’t find on any other plantation in the area. Explore the **Gullah Culture** including the new *Black History in America* exhibit on display in nine of the original slave cabins. Then take a *motorized tour* around the entire 738 acres that make up the plantation and the settings for many television shows and movies. This evening participate in a **Cooking Class** with **Chef Bob Waggoner** at his downtown **Charleston “In The Kitchen Restaurant”**. Here you will cook and laugh alongside him to prepare and enjoy a seasonal tasting menu inspired by many farmers, fisherman and artisans of the low country.

Overnight: Hotel Indigo/Mt Pleasant, SC

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3 Saturday, March 19, 2022 - Carriage Tour, City Market, Tea Garden, Beaufort, South Carolina

Today experience a **Horse Drawn Carriage Ride** through historic **Charleston, South Carolina**. With over 300 years of history, **Charleston** is one of the most beautifully preserved historic and architectural treasures in the nation. Significant and lovely structures, beautiful gardens, and centuries-old homes grace the narrow streets. Church bells toll the hour as history unfolds around each and every corner. Enjoy lunch on our own with free time to explore the **City Market**, that spans over four blocks and is home to more than 300 vibrant entrepreneurs. Sweet grass basket weavers can be seen in every building, along with local artists, jewelry, tapestry, souvenirs, church dolls, afghans, rugs, rice, beans, sauces, local candies/cookies and much more. Next we experience a **Charleston Tea Garden Trolley Tour**. Home to The Charleston Tea Garden, the **Wadmalaw** farming area possess the idyllic environments of sandy soils, sub-tropical climate and an average rainfall of 52 inches per year, for propagating tea. The *Camellia Sinensis* tea plant is currently used to produce both black and green teas and exists in over 320 varieties on the 127 acre grounds of the **Charleston Tea Garden**. Next, we check into our **Beaufort** hotel. The evening is free to explore the unique and independent boutiques, artisan shops and grab dinner at one of over 10 independent restaurants and eateries within a 3-block area.

Overnight: Best Western Sea Island Inn/Beaufort, SC

Meals: Breakfast

Day 4 Sunday, March 20, 2022 – River Dolphin Cruise, Gullah Geechee Center, Shrimp Docks, Antebellum Inn

This morning we set sail on a **River Dolphin Cruise**. While we look for dolphins on the **Story River**, our guide will brief us on the nearly 300 different species of birds, including egrets, herons, terns, bald eagles, roseate spoonbills and pelicans in habit the refuge. As we enter this saltwater tidal zone, we're sure to see many of these birds as they feed in the estuary. Next visit the **Gullah Geechee Visitors Center** to learn about the history and stories of the **Gullah Geechee Culture**. Then visit **Penn Center**, the site of former Penn School documented as one of the country's first schools for formerly enslaved individuals. **Penn Center** is one of the most significant African American historical and cultural institutions in existence today. Located on **St. Helena Island**, (one of the most beautiful and historically distinct of the **South Carolina Sea Islands**), we will be in the heart of the **Gullah** culture including visit to the **Praise House, Pat Conroy's Grave, and Slave Cemetery**. Lunch is a special treat as we enjoy a **Low Country Shrimp Boil lunch (aka, Frogmore Stew)**, where we will "*Hear the Rest of Story*" from a local storyteller and historical interpreter. Following lunch we visit a local shrimper, to see how our **Low Country Boil Shrimp** was harvest from the sea with their nets, boats, and docks. After returning to our hotel to freshen up we visit the **Antebellum Inn** and enjoy a **Welcome Reception (Glass of wine or beer)** on an **Antebellum** porch in downtown **Beaufort**, followed by an **included dinner** inside this **Historic Antebellum house!**

Overnight: Best Western Sea Island Inn/ Beaufort, SC

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5 Monday, March 21, 2022 – Owens Thomas Slave Headquarters, Pin Point Community, Wormsloe Historic Plantation, Welcome to Savannah, Georgia

This morning we travel the short distance to the **Savannah, Georgia Visitors Center**. Enjoy a 90-minute narrated historical trolley tour of **Savannah** including a visit to the 1819 Regency style **Owens-Thomas House Mansion & Slave Quarters**. Here, we'll explore the complicated relationships between the most and least powerful people in the city of **Savannah** in the early 19th century. We will also have time to visit the *adjacent gardens, carriage house, and slave quarters*. For nearly 100 years, the community of **Pin Point** was quietly isolated on the banks of the **Moon River** just south of **Savannah**. Now, you can explore the refurbished museum complex and experience multimedia presentations, exciting exhibits and unparalleled views of the marsh! A **BBQ lunch** is included on the deck while overlooking the **Moon River!** This afternoon enter the breathtaking avenue of **Wormsloe Historic Plantation**. Sheltered by live oaks and Spanish moss the entrance leads to the tabby ruins of this historic plantation. This was the colonial estate of Noble Jones (who was a humble carpenter) that arrived in Georgia in 1733 with the first group of settlers from England and built an empire. Enjoy a free evening at your door step, along the **Savannah River Walk** (dinner on your own).

Overnight: River Street Inn/ Savannah, GA

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 6 Tuesday, March 22, 2022- Explore Savannah's Market & Riverwalk, Light Station & Museum, Welcome to Jekyll Island

This morning is free to enjoy **Savannah's City Market**, or explore the **River Walk** and grab lunch on your own. This afternoon we bid farewell to **Savannah** for a visit to the **Tybee Island Light Station and Museum** located on beautiful **Tybee Island** next to the **Savannah River**. It is one of seven surviving colonial era lighthouse towers, though highly modified in the mid-1800s. Next we check in to the **Jekyll Island Club Resort** on scenic **Jekyll Island, GA**. Since 1888, iconic families like the Vanderbilt's, Morgan's, Pulitzers, and Rockefellers were members of the Jekyll Island Club. They came for the winters by private rail cars and luxurious yachts. The days were filled with "Red-Bug" races on the beach, golf along the ocean, tennis on grass courts, and dinners that lasted for hours in the **Grand Dining Room**. Jekyll Island has plenty to explore, nature lovers and photo buffs find rare birds, sea turtle sanctuaries, and the remote beauty of **Driftwood Beach**, historians devour the stories and architecture, exercise fans swim, jog, hike, and bike on miles of un-crowded beach. Foodies find new favorites among the local seafood, imported wines, and craft spirits. This evening enjoy **dining at the Jekyll Island Club Resort**.

Overnight: Jekyll Island Club Resort/Jekyll Island, GA

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 7 Wednesday, March 23, 2022- Jekyll Island Touring, Driftwood Beach, Clam Creek, Sea Turtle Center

Enjoy a morning walk on the beach or just relax on the patio with your favorite beverage. Later we board a trolley for a **historic tour of Jekyll Island**. Enjoy a **box lunch** at the **Clam Creek Picnic Area. Driftwood Beach**, which extends from the *Clam Creek Picnic Area*, will amaze you with the beautiful driftwood and trees that resemble a scene from another world. These gnarled and weathered trees are left behind from years of erosion. This afternoon we have a guided tour of the **Georgia Sea Turtle Center on Jekyll Island**. This is an educational center devoted to the study, care & rehabilitation of sea turtles & their environment. Mid-afternoon we return to the resort for free time and dinner on your own.

Overnight: Jekyll Island Club Resort/Jekyll Island GA

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 8 Thursday, March 24, 2022

Enjoy breakfast at the **Jekyll Island Club Resort** before departing the island for our return flight home with **Southern Porches Memories!**

Meals: Breakfast

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES*:

- Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation for Southern Porches Tour
- Airport Transfers
- Round Trip Coach Class Airfare (Chicago/Charleston/Chicago)
Air pricing is based on current airfare and is subject to change
- Attractions and Admissions as Highlighted in Itinerary
- Seven Nights' Accommodations and Hotel Luggage Handling
- 15 Meals
- Tri State Travel Tour Director
- Citizens State Bank Host
- Taxes, Service Charges and Gratuities on Included Accommodations, Attractions, Admissions, Meals, Motorcoach Driver, Tri-State Travel Director, and Local Guides

NOT INCLUDED:

- Travel Protection Plan
- Applicable Airline Luggage Fees
- Items of a personal nature
- Additional fuel surcharges

Your Tour Price:

\$3,685.00 per person – 4 to a room (2 beds)
\$3,810.00 per person – 3 to a room (2 beds)
\$3,905.00 per person – 2 to a room (1 or 2 beds)
\$4,745.00 per person - Single

Tri State Travel has assigned a Physical Activity Rating **LEVEL 3** to this program (Walking one or two city blocks, possibly climbing a flight of stairs and some standing during tours and handling your carry-on bag). We hope this will be of benefit in choosing a tour that will be a “Worry Free Vacation”.