

Best of the Low Country

Charleston & Savannah Cultural Walking Adventure



Classic
JOURNEYS™

DAILY ITINERARY

Charleston & Savannah: Best of the Low Country | Cultural Walking Adventure



“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”

— *Travel + Leisure*

Echoes of Coastal Culture

The wildly popular book *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* has inspired any number of pilgrimages to the coastal South. But our journey digs deeper than the guidebook landmarks. Of course, we walk our fair share of moss-draped lanes – but instead of admiring fine restorations of prosperous homes from the outside, we go in for private tours. We go back in time and relive famed battles at Fort Pulaski and wander around one of the world's most beautiful cemeteries. To our mind, there's just no other region in America with such a distinctive meld of history, climate and way of life, and we'll share it all with you in gracious style.

DAY 1

CHARLESTON HISTORIC DISTRICT

- **Walking tour of Charleston's historic district**
- **World-class food at our welcome dinner**

Charleston is alive with history. In the years before the Civil War, South Carolina's cotton crops produced an amazing concentration of wealth. Wealthy plantation owners and merchants built opulent homes and embellished them with French china, English silver and impeccably manicured gardens. We'll make the promenade along streets lined with spectacular Georgian and Greek Revival mansions.

This afternoon, we'll step inside and back in time to tour some of the finest homes with our expert guide. You'll learn about the history and you'll get an insider's view of the meticulous work that goes into restoring grand wood homes that have survived centuries of sultry southern weather.

As the sun starts to set and the sky turns orange a welcome dinner awaits you, where you can enjoy some classic southern food or go out of your comfort zone with a meal packed with so much creativity and energy you can taste it.

Overnight: Charleston

Meals: D

DAY 2

DRAYTON HALL / MIDDLETON PLACE

- **Join our guide to visit Drayton Hall and Middleton Place**
- **Enjoy a demonstration by artisans at a working plantation**

After breakfast, we take a short drive northwest of Charleston where we start a tranquil walk along the Ashley River, through palmetto groves and moss-draped live oaks, to majestic Drayton Hall. A National Historic Landmark, Drayton Hall is considered the nation's finest example of Georgian-Palladian architecture and the only plantation house along the Ashley River to survive the Civil War. Our expert National Trust guide meets us for a private tour through the completely original mansion.

Later this morning, we walk along the grasses and rushes of the nearby salt marshes that have been used to make sweet grass baskets for centuries. We also see old rice dikes that have protected the coast and provided the main food source for African slaves in the 18th century. Our destination: magnificent Middleton Place. Dating to 1741, the plantation was the home of Henry Middleton, president of the First Continental Congress, whose son, Arthur, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. On foot, we explore the nation's oldest landscaped gardens. Azaleas, camellias, magnolias and countless other flowers for all seasons surround manicured lawns and small, pretty lakes. We'll also tour the halls of the mansion's restored south wing and admire its paintings and historical documents housed. We see the stable yards and local artisans pottery and weaving that describe life on a plantation.

Our picturesque afternoon walk traces the two-mile perimeter of Middleton through the rice fields on the banks of the Ashley River. We get a chance to see bald eagles, wood storks and rare plant species that have thrived in this region for thousands of years. We're back in Charleston early enough to relax before dinner. Laze away the day or take in one of Charleston's historic museums, shop King Street's chic boutiques or go antiquing in the Historic District.

Overnight: Charleston

Meals: B, L

DAY 3

ST. HELENA ISLAND / BEAUFORT

- **Glimpse into rural lowcountry life past and present at St. Helena Island**
- **Explore Beaufort's landmark downtown**

Leaving Charleston behind, we travel to St. Helena Island for a walk among towering loblolly pines, majestic live oaks and southern bayberry to the South's first school for freed slaves, established in 1860. Here, we learn about the fascinating Gullah culture of the Sea Islands. Gullah refers to a unique language, people and culture descended from African-American slaves brought to the islands more than 300 years ago. Gullah influences permeate the local culture from their sweet-grass basket making to their fragrant cooking.

On arrival in Beaufort, we'll take the chance to wander the streets of this town with Spanish roots all the way back to the 16th century. After lunch and a taste of a sweet tea float, we'll explore Beaufort by horse-drawn carriage before heading into Savannah.

We cross the Georgia border to Savannah, where General Oglethorpe founded the thirteenth and final colony in 1733. This is the Deep South of legend—great drapes of Spanish moss, stately mansions and mint juleps on the veranda. Savannah is a true original with a grid of broad avenues, spacious public squares, and a bustling port.

Overnight: Savannah

Meals: B, D

DAY 4

FORT PULASKI / BONAVENTURE CEMETERY

- Relive famed battles at Fort Pulaski National Monument
- Explore one of the world's most beautiful cemeteries

This morning, we take a short drive east for a guided visit of Fort Pulaski. Named for Casimir Pulaski, a Revolutionary War hero, the massive brick fortification was built on Cockspur Island in the early 1800's. In April of 1862, Union troops fired their rifled cannon at the fort, breaching the southeast angle. After capturing the fort, Union Major General David Hunter ordered the release of area slaves. Many were recruited into the Union army comprising the First South Carolina Colored Regiment.

The old saying is, no visit to Savannah is complete without a visit to Bonaventure! Our morning will continue with a visit to a 170 year old cemetery. It is a serene and sublime experience to walk about this Victorian Era cemetery filled with beautiful statues, oak trees with Spanish moss, and to learn about the history of those who built the fair city of Savannah.

This afternoon, we return to Savannah for some free time before dinner to explore Savannah on our own. At your leisure, relax with a book or people watch in one of Savannah's famous squares, visit the Telfair Mansion and Art Museum—the oldest public art museum in the southeast—or shop along the quaint streets.

Overnight: Savannah

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 5

SAVANNAH HISTORIC DISTRICT

- Listen to interesting anecdotes and stories about famous and infamous locals of Georgia's First City

Our last morning together is reserved for a private walking tour of Savannah's National Landmark Historic District. We'll stroll past majestic mansions and oak shaded parks as our local guide shares anecdotes of Savannah's storied past: British occupation, Antebellum grace, and Garden City hospitality. Returning to the hotel, you'll make your connections home.

Meals: B



Tour Hotels



The Spectator Hotel

Offering the best address in Charleston's bustling historic district, The Spectator Hotel evokes the exuberance of the Jazz Age and the genteel glamour of the Old South. Step inside our sophisticated boutique jewel and discover why, year after year, we are recognized among Charleston's top hotels.

OVERNIGHT: Charleston | **NIGHTS:** 2



Kehoe House

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this luxury inn is in an exquisitely restored 1892 mansion at the historic heart of Savannah. There are just 13 rooms, each of them uniquely decorated, offers a gracious view of the tree-lined streets.

OVERNIGHT: Savannah | **NIGHTS:** 2

Tour Dates & Prices

To see the full list of dates and prices for this tour, go to our website by clicking [here](#).

Want to travel with just your group on a date of your choosing? Visit CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE to learn more about Private Journeys.

Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH	5 Days, 4 Nights
START	Lobby of The Spectator Hotel, Charleston, South Carolina
END	Lobby of Kehoe House, Savannah, Georgia
TERRAIN	Easy to moderate on good trails.

What's Included

- All breakfasts, 2 lunches, 3 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to tastings, historic sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

Above & Beyond Benefits

- Invisible Check-In
- Privileged Access Events

READY TO BOOK?
CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION

Or give us a call

1-800-200-3887
Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST
moreinfo@classicjourneys.com

AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to [a whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

**Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

THE Classic Journeys Difference

HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.



At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!

Franklin
President & Founder



You can expect the highest standards:



Luxurious Lodgings:

Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



Included Activities:

You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



Local Guides:

Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



Small Group Travel:

With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



Amazing Cuisine:

From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



Unmatched Value:

"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in Charleston & Savannah...

- Touring opulent plantation homes and gardens of the Coastal South
- Reliving famed battles at Fort Pulaski National Monument
- Visiting Drayton Hall and Middleton Place on expertly guided explorations
- Relaxing at your luxury inn, an exquisitely restored 1892 mansion in the heart of Savannah
- Exploring with local guides who show you southern hospitality

"Classic Journeys excels in providing exceptional guides familiar with the local area."

-Bert and Jo Ann E., Red Lodge, MT