

# Gardens and Historic Houses of Savannah & Charleston

## Including the Festival of Houses & Gardens

Escorted by Cheryl & Robert Nichols  
March 26 - April 2, 2022

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.



### **Saturday, March 26**

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.

### **Sunday, March 27**

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 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.

This afternoon we will join the Savannah Tour of Homes & Gardens in the Ardsley Park area. Ardsley Park-Chatham Crescent is a large residential area developed in 1910 as two adjacent planned subdivisions and built to accommodate the automobile. Ardsley Park showcases broadstreets with lush tree canopies and landscaped squares. Chatham Crescent was planned as a Beaux-Arts inspired 'City Beautiful' with a grand mall, crescent shaped avenues, and small circular parks. The district is mostly residential and contains large homes with expansive lawns in a variety of revival and eclectic styles which were popular in the early 20th century. Tonight our welcome dinner is at the famous Olde Pink House Restaurant.

***Breakfast-Lunch-Dinner***

**Monday, March 28**

Today Savannah residents will welcome us into their private gardens in the Historic District of Savannah. Our tour will feature two 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. We'll visit the Garden of Fragrance. The garden, located in Forsyth Park, originally began in 1959 and is surrounded by three walls to help contain the fragrance of the many scented plants. The entrance is enhanced by beautiful iron gates from the Old Union Station. Our tour includes 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. 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***



**Tuesday, March 29**

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 is 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. **Breakfast**

### **Wednesday, March 30**

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 peek 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 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. We will also 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.

Afternoon free for individual pursuits.



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. 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. Or 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.

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**

### **Thursday, March 31**

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! We'll 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 delicious luncheon in the Middleton Place Pavilion. **Breakfast-Lunch**

### **Friday, April 1**

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.

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. Our farewell dinner this evening is in a private room at the Peninsula Grill, a Relais & Chateaux property.

**Breakfast-Lunch-Dinner**

**Saturday, April 2** Independent departures. **Breakfast**

**FLIGHTS--where to meet the tour:** The tour begins in Savannah on **March 26**. Due to many late flight arrivals there are no activities planned that day. The tour ends in Charleston on **April 2**.

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](mailto: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 email 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.

A nonrefundable deposit of \$400 per person is required to reserve your space.

**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, 6 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; 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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