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SOUTHERN SAMPLER IN CHARLESTON, SAVANNAH & GEORGIA'S GOLDEN ISLES

SEPTEMBER 15-21, 2024

From the timeless appeal of antebellum houses in Charleston, to Georgia's coastline, including Savannah and the Golden Isles, boasting pristine beaches and exquisite architectural gems, to the rich history of this region, this getaway will explore Southern hospitality and charm at its finest!

Departure/return times and pickup location are as follows:

	<u>DEPART</u>	<u>RETURN</u>
Kohl's, Westminster Rt. 140 & Market St. (Rear of parking lot)	6:00 AM	9:00 PM

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15: We will begin our travels south making regular meal and rest stops en route. Our overnight accommodations will be in Charlotte, North Carolina at:

DRURY INN & SUITES CHARLOTTE UNIVERSITY PLACE
 (704)593-0700
 415 West W T Harris Blvd.
 Charlotte, North Carolina 28262

The evening is free for you to relax and have dinner at either the hotel or on own at a restaurant within walking distance. (NOTE: Drury hotels feature hot food and cold beverages from 5:30-7:00 which is included with your stay. It can be used as a snack for some people, and a meal for others.)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16: Following breakfast at the hotel, we will travel to **Charleston**, South Carolina. Discover sweet grass baskets, try a benne, pick up a souvenir or stroll the historic streets around the **Charleston Historic City Market** during free time mid-day. This afternoon, a local tour guide will join us for a **guided city sightseeing tour of Charleston**. See centuries-old cobblestone streets, historic homes, antebellum mansions, the Battery, and the Citadel as you hear stories about the Holy City. We will overnight at the:

HOTEL INDIGO MOUNT PLEASANT (843)884-6000
 250 Johnnie Dodds Blvd.
 Mount Pleasant, South Carolina 29464

Unique dining awaits this evening on the *Spirit of Carolina* during your **dinner cruise** offering gourmet cuisine, live entertainment, and breath-taking views of Charleston's Harbor.



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17: Today is just your cup of tea as we depart the hotel, after breakfast, for a tour of the largest Tea Garden in the United States, the **Charleston Tea Garden**. Located in Wadmalaw Island, SC, learn about the Bigelow family and view acres and acres of breathtaking Camellia Synthesis tea plants as far as the eye can see. Find out first-hand how tea is made during an **informative factory tour**, take an enjoyable **trolley ride** through the tea fields, and help yourself to all the iced American Classic Tea samples you can drink. Next, we will continue our travels to **Savannah**, Georgia, one of the first planned cities which remains very close to its original plan. Enjoy exploring **River Street** and find a local eatery for lunch on your own. See the city's 22 historic squares and hear about its storied past on a **guided trolley tour of Savannah** this afternoon. Highlights include such landmarks as Forsyth Park, River Street, the Waving Girl statue, the Cotton Exchange, and Colonial Park Cemetery.



We will check into our centrally-located accommodations for the next three nights at:

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON SAVANNAH HISTORIC DISTRICT

(912)790-7000

411 West Bay Street

Savannah, Georgia 31401

Dinner will be served at a local restaurant this evening.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18: After breakfast, we will visit one of the Golden Isles, **Jekyll Island**. Join the ranks of the rich and famous at the **Jekyll Island Club Resort** where lunch will be included. *The Legend of Bagger Vance* was filmed at the historic Resort, a 19th century hunting retreat for millionaires. Discover how these empire builders, including the Rockefellers and Vanderbilts, created an exclusive gilded era island retreat for family and friends on Georgia's coast and shaped our nation's future on a **narrated tram tour of Jekyll Island's historic district**. Enjoy the moss draped **Live Oaks** and spectacular **Driftwood Beach** where the beautiful driftwood trees resemble a tree graveyard that will amaze you. Driftwood Beach, voted one of America's "Ten Most Romantic Beaches," is an escape to another world as ancient driftwood monuments line the waterfront, creating an unforgettable backdrop. We'll then hop over to another Golden Isle, **St. Simons Island**. Beloved by famous author, Eugenia Price, learn the history of the island with a local guide. Wander through the charming **Pier Village** overlooking the Brunswick River and out to the Atlantic Ocean. Try some sweet Georgia shrimp at one of the eateries for an independent dinner before returning to the hotel in Savannah for the evening.



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19: Following breakfast this morning, we will depart for another of the Golden Isles, **Tybee Island**. This quaint seaside village is well-known as Savannah's beach. Learn about this island's storied past during a **guided sightseeing tour**. Take a **walk on the beach with a naturalist**. Downtown Tybee Island offers lots of choices for grabbing lunch on your own. Upon our return to Savannah, the afternoon is free for you to explore the historic district at your leisure. **Chippewa Square** is at the center of the downtown historic district which is also at the center of Savannah's nightlife and entertainment. The Square is also known for the famous park bench scenes from the critically acclaimed film *Forrest Gump*. This evening, we will gather for **dinner** at a local eatery and top off the day with a live performance at the

Historic Savannah Theatre! The Savannah Theatre is one of the oldest continually operating theatres in the United States.



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20: After breakfast, we will head to **Beaufort**, South Carolina, located on one of the largest Sea Islands, Port Royal Island. Re-live the past as you take a **narrated tour on a horse-drawn carriage ride** and see Antebellum and Victoria architecture, Hollywood movie sites, and hear Civil War history. Enjoy an independent lunch in this quaint seaside village before departing for Charlotte, NC for our final night of lodging at the:

DRURY INN & SUITES CHARLOTTE ARROWOOD

(704) 561-7499

8925 Red Oak Blvd.

Charlotte, North Carolina 28217

Enjoy the Kickback reception at the hotel or dinner on own next to the hotel this evening.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21: Following breakfast, enjoy an inspirational visit to the **Billy Graham Library & Museum**, a 40,000 square-foot experience where you will discover the life & legacy of America's pastor. Designed to reflect Billy Graham's dynamic journey from a humble NC dairy farm boy to an international ambassador of God's love in stadiums and arenas all across the globe, the barn-shaped building is situated on 20 landscaped acres, and showcases stunning multimedia presentations, interactive kiosks, photos, and memorabilia. Tour the **Graham Family Homeplace** and take time to reflect in the **Memorial Prayer Garden**, a peaceful setting beside the burial sites for Billy Graham and Ruth Bell Graham. Shop in **Ruth's Attic Bookstore** and grab a bite to eat in the unique ambiance of the **Graham Brothers Dairy Bar** with booths that look like stalls, whimsical cow-print tablecloths, antique milk cans and family photos. We will then make our final travels homeward with regular meal and rest stops en route and sharing favorite memories of our Southern getaway with new friends.

PRICE PER PERSON:

SINGLE	\$3,040.00	(PRICE INCLUDES: motorcoach transportation, lodging, luggage handling, 6 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 3 dinners, admissions, boat cruise, trolley rides, tram tour, carriage ride, 1 show, guided tours with gratuities, and tax & gratuities on meals included)
DOUBLE	\$2,450.00	
TRIPLE	\$2,270.00	
QUAD	\$2,270.00	

A DEPOSIT OF \$400 PER PERSON IS REQUIRED WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF BOOKING. ALL RESERVATIONS AND FINAL PAYMENT MUST BE MADE BY AUGUST 1, 2024. Payment can be made by cash, check or money order and mailed to our office at above address. Luggage tags and final itineraries are mailed about 2 weeks prior to the trip. Bills are not mailed for balances due, however, courtesy calls as a reminder will be made in case payment is not received by due date. Bus driver & tour director gratuities are not included in tour cost.

In the event of a cancellation, any non-refundable expenses for package inclusions such as reserved seat tickets, admissions, meals, or lodging may be forfeited. Rills will guarantee full

refund only if the cancelled reservations can be resold to another customer. In the event where travel companions sharing the same room should need to cancel one or more persons in that room, the remaining passengers will be responsible for paying the supplemental charge to change occupancy.

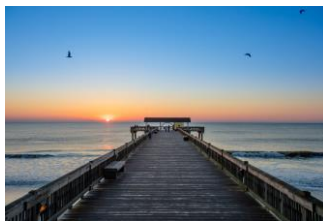
We strongly recommend purchasing trip cancellation insurance which is available through Travel Insured International. For information and to obtain a quote, visit our agency specific link: <http://www.travelinsured.com/agency?agency=61986> For specific questions regarding trip cancellation insurance, call Travel Insured's customer care at (800)243-3174 and refer to Agency #61986 (Rill's Bus Service as agent).

Our motorcoach is equipped with restroom, reclining seats, air-conditioning/heating as needed, luggage compartments, and electrical outlets. Smoking of any kind is strictly prohibited onboard the motorcoach. The consumption of alcoholic beverages by any tour member while onboard our coach is also strictly prohibited. While every reasonable effort will be made to handle your luggage carefully, Rill's Bus Service will not assume any liability for lost or damaged luggage, due to breakage, theft, hotel or carrier handling, fair wear and tear, etc.

CASUAL CLOTHING is appropriate for the entire tour. Comfortable walking shoes are highly recommended. PLEASE NOTE THERE IS CONSIDERABLE WALKING involved on this tour.

Rill's Bus Service reserves the right to change itineraries and reservations at their discretion, with or without notice, if in the best interest of the customer and to improve the quality of the tour, which could be necessary for a variety of reasons including, but not limited to, local weather conditions, cancellations/substitutions for trip inclusions made by outside vendors, and/or any other circumstances beyond their control. Rill's Bus Service acts only as an agent on behalf of tour patrons in all matters relating to tour package inclusions, except transportation by their own vehicles, and is not responsible for any damage, delay, loss, injury, or accident to person or personal property when passenger is participating in tour activities and/or traveling by other transportation means while on tour prepared by Rills. Furthermore, Rill's is not responsible for any additional expenses incurred as a result of sickness, injury, weather, or any other unforeseen circumstances that are beyond their control.

By traveling with Rill's Bus Service and participating in any and all tour package inclusions, you voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19.



*Photo Credit: Georgia Dept. of Economic Development