



Charming Southern Porches:

*Lively Gullah Geechee Culture & Wildlife Marshes of the Low Country
and Stately Antebellum Mansions - a "Trips Exclusive" Tour!*

Charleston — Beaufort — Savannah

October 28 - November 3, 2023 7 days — 6 nights

Your enchanted journey to the Southern Porches of the Low Country with TRIPS transports you to three of the most colorful and exotic places you'll ever see without ever leaving these United States! Delight in the southern charm of historic Charleston, the genteel antebellum beauty of Savannah and the vivid seaside culture of nautical Beaufort. Explore the fascinating Gullah culture and backroads and beaches of the vibrant Low Country! Visit stately old mansions and plantation houses, savor all the fresh local foods and authentic Low seafood recipes, and marvel at the astounding variety of this unique region's coastal wildlife — pelicans, dolphins, cranes and so much more. Your richly atmospheric Southern Porches tour graciously promises to deliver a spectacular sensory feast beyond all others!

Itinerary

October 28, 2023 - Your Welcome Dinner in Charleston!

Depart for **Charleston, SC**, today where on arrival you'll be met and assisted, then checked in at the stylish **Cambria Hotel** just steps away from shopping, dining and entertainment. Enjoy your scrumptious **Welcome Dinner** included at the longtime favorite **Charleston Crab House** with fresh seafood and amazing water views!

Overnight: Charleston - Cambria Hotel Mt. Pleasant (D)

October 29, 2023 - Gullah Geechee & Horse Carriage Ride!

Enjoy breakfast included at your hotel before being introduced to the region's **Gullah Geechee heritage**, riding past landmarks, history and folklore highlighting the rich and varied contributions of black Charlestonians. You'll visit Denmark Vesey's home, **Catfish Row**, the **Old Slave Mart** and the Market, and learn about sweetgrass basket makers, the Aiken-Rhett House slave quarters, and even some black slave owners. Your tour's distinctive narration, combined with detailed maps and **vibrant descriptions in native Gullah**, make this a unique and enjoyable way to experience the "Holy City." Afterward, enjoy lunch on your own with shopping time at Charleston's **City Market**, covering four blocks and home to more than 300 colorful vendors, with plenty of great dining showcasing fresh seafood. Then you'll get to experience a **Horse-drawn Carriage Ride Tour** of Historic Charleston! Ride in high style past Antebellum mansions and lush gardens while discovering the City's remarkable history and architecture. Afterward, you'll embark on a tour with a **wine reception** hosted by the Historic Charleston Foundation at the **Nathaniel Russell House Museum**. The museum is widely recognized as one of America's top neoclassical structures, with interiors restored to their original 1808 grandeur and surrounded by formal gardens. Afterward, enjoy dinner on your own in historic

downtown **Charleston**.

Overnight: Charleston - Cambria Hotel Mt. Pleasant (B)

October 30, 2023 - Old Charleston and Beautiful Beaufort!

After your breakfast and hotel check-out, you're off to explore **Boone Hall Plantation**, one of America's oldest working plantations. Entering along the iconic "**Avenue of Oaks**," you'll enjoy a guided tour of the elegant mansion, and a self-guided tour of the **enchanted gardens and Butterfly Pavilion**, plus the original slave cabins detailing the African-American experience. After taking a celebrated tractor tour of the plantation itself, you'll travel to lovely **Beaufort, SC**, located on **Port Royal Island**. Along the way you'll stop at the **Charleston Tea Garden on Wadmalaw Island**, where you'll take a **trolley and factory tour**, and also enjoy an included boxed lunch while visiting. Wadmalaw Island creates the perfect environment for growing the Garden's over 300 black and green tea varieties with its sandy soils, sub-tropical climate and frequent rainfall. Your next stop is at **Lady Island Oyster** for a brief look at its intriguing Mariculture process. Then you'll arrive at downtown **Beaufort** to check in to your hotel. Unwind and linger awhile in this welcoming Southern town with its very walkable downtown and gracious people, with dinner on your own to enjoy delicious local foods on a lovely waterfront setting.

Overnight: Beaufort - Sea Island Inn

(B/L)

October 31, 2023 - Wonders of the Gullah Low Country!

Following your hotel breakfast, you'll embark on a **fascinating coastal cruise and eco-tour**. While looking for dolphins, your guide will point out the diverse wildlife inhabiting in this colorful ecosystem, where the **Story River** is home to nearly 300 different species of birds, including egrets, herons, terns, bald eagles, roseate spoonbills and pelicans. Your included lunch is a delicious **Low Country Shrimp Boil**, or "Frogmore Stew," served at the Sea Island

Center where you'll "Hear the Rest of the Story" from a local storyteller. Then you'll go by trolley to visit **Penn Center**, site of former Penn School, one of the country's first schools for formerly enslaved people, and among the most significant historical and cultural institutions in the area. Tucked in the heart of **South Carolina Sea Islands**, surrounded by glimmering marshes, and nestled beneath the silvery moss-draped limbs of massive live oaks, Penn Center inhabits a vital part of the Gullah culture. You'll also visit the **Fort Fremont** military installation on **Saint Helena Island**. It's one of just two surviving coastal fortifications in the US intact from the Spanish American War era, comprising almost 170 acres, with many bastions and concrete emplacements for its guns remaining today. Return to **Beaufort** to enjoy dinner on your own along Beaufort's renowned "**Front Porch**," then perhaps take a **scenic stroll along the River** or relax on the inviting **Porch swings** along the promenade.

Overnight: Beaufort - Sea Island Inn

(B/L)

November 1, 2023 - Carriage Ride and Stunning Savannah!

Following your breakfast and hotel check-out, you'll take a **Sea Island Horse Drawn Carriage Ride** to learn more about Beaufort's history, seeing Hollywood movie sets, gorgeous gardens, ancient churches, and many Civil War era Antebellum homes. Enjoy lunch on your own here on this final stop in charming **Beaufort**, while browsing the unique and independent local boutiques, artisan shops and restaurants. You'll then travel to **Savannah, GA**, and take a **hop-on and hop-off trolley tour** to explore this beautiful city before checking in to your hotel, close to the historic **City Market shopping and dining district**, and just a 3-minute walk to the **Savannah River**. Dinner will be on your own tonight to enjoy the many exquisite restaurants lining the **Riverwalk**.

Overnight: Savannah - Double Tree Historic District

(B)

November 2, 2023 - More of Savannah & Gullah Delights!

After breakfast, you'll first take a "golf cart tour" of **Bonaventure Cemetery**, voted one of the world's 10 most beautiful cemeteries. Made famous by the novel and film "**Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil**," the cemetery had once been a plantation set on a scenic bluff overlooking Savannah's Wilmington River. Then you'll tour the colorful **American Prohibition Museum** with its thirteen different galleries, four vintage cars, a functioning (and fully stocked) speakeasy! After touring a gorgeous **Antebellum Home**, you'll venture off to discover the best of the Low Country, as you visit a 100-year old **Gullah Geechee Community** quietly isolated on the banks of **Moon River** (yes, THAT Moon River!), to learn about the unique aspects of their oyster and crab aquaculture practiced for over a century. Here you'll enjoy your included **BBQ lunch** served by the regional cook-off BBQ Master, and dine right on the deck surrounded by incredible marsh views! You'll then visit the impressive **Wormsloe Historic Plantation**, featuring one of the largest rows of Live Oaks and Spanish moss in the U.S. As colonial interpreters tell the story of the **Estate of Noble Jones**, you can even try your hand at a cricket game on the original grass cricket lawn here. Enjoy your free evening to explore or shop, with dinner on your own along the **River Walk** docks.

Overnight: Savannah - Double Tree Historic District

(B/L)

November 3, 2023 - Farewell to the Low Country!

Following your breakfast and hotel check-out, you'll head out to **Tybee Island** to visit its renowned **lighthouse**, and then enjoy a final farewell luncheon at the **Crab Shack**, voted as having the best seafood in Savannah since 1998! Afterward, you'll leave for the Charleston airport for your homeward flight. **Happy memories of your enchanted Low Country days and nights will stay with you forever!**

(B/L)

***Please note that itineraries are subject to change.*

Inclusions

- Roundtrip airport transfers including gratuities
- Roundtrip airfare to Charleston, SC (from certain major cities, please inquire about yours; checked baggage fees are not included)
- 2 nights lodging each at Cambria Hotel in Charleston/Mt. Pleasant, SC
- 2 nights lodging at Sea Island Inn in Beaufort, SC
- 2 nights lodging at Double Tree Historic District in Savannah, GA
- 4 lunches and 1 dinner including signature Welcome Dinner and Farewell Lunch, and a Wine (or beer) Reception
- All sightseeing and admissions listed in the detailed itinerary, and more!
- Private, deluxe motor coach throughout your tour
- Tour Guide/Director throughout your tour
- TRIPS ticket wallet and luggage tags
- Porterage of 1 suitcase per person.
- All government taxes and fees

Charming Southern Porches!

\$4,198.00

per person / double occupancy

Single supplement \$898.00



Trip cancellation/interruption Travel Protection is available and recommended.

Check with your club representative for details.

Call today to reserve your space!!!

Reservations for "**Charming Southern Porches**" are accepted on a first come/first served basis.

An initial **\$650.00** deposit is required to hold space on this tour.

This deposit is fully refundable up to July 20, 2023. **Final payment is due in the TRIPS office on or before July 20, 2023.**

Therefore, please make sure that payment is submitted to your club director at least 10 days prior to this date.

100% non-refundable as of July 20, 2023.

Prosperity Bank Travel Club

Make checks payable to **Prosperity Bank**

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