



National Trust for Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours



# A Lowcountry Sojourn in Savannah

*with John Meffert*

March 22–27, 2026

Jekyll Island Historic Club Resort  
(photo by Farrargirl)

# A Lowcountry Sojourn in Savannah

*With its majestic antebellum architecture and iconic verdant squares, Savannah is arguably the most charming of America's historic cities.*

Experience southern charm and culture in Savannah and Georgia's magnificent Jekyll Island on this custom-designed itinerary enhanced by the insights of study leader John Meffert. Visit stately homes filled with art and antiques, view impressive museum collections, and dine in some of the finest restaurants in the Southeast, all while savoring the elegant sites and rich, vibrant history of this distinctive region. View Gilded Age "cottages" on Jekyll Island and enjoy personal interaction with museum staff as you gain an insightful understanding of the region.

## Travel with John Meffert

Historian John Meffert is a longtime champion of preservation. Formerly the director of the National Trust's Southern Office, he now serves as a consultant on heritage conservation services in his hometown of Charleston, where he was previously the director of the Preservation Society of Charleston, responsible for protecting the city's historic resources.



## Accommodations at the River Street Inn

Unwind with stunning riverfront views and luxurious amenities at the River Street Inn. Ideally located along the scenic Savannah River in the heart of Savannah's Historic District, the River Street Inn is just steps away from the city's finest restaurants and landmarks. The best thing about River Street Inn is its historic charm combined with a vibrant riverside atmosphere. The cobblestone street, lined with restored 18th- and 19th-century warehouses, offers stunning views of the Savannah River, unique shops, and art galleries. You can watch massive cargo ships pass by, enjoy street performers, and take in the romantic Southern vibe that defines Savannah, the perfect retreat for history buffs and food lovers.







Owens-Thomas House  
(photo by AJ-Clicks)

**Sunday, March 22**

## Arrivals

Upon arrival in Savannah, transfer independently to the River Street Inn, your home for the next five evenings. Late this afternoon, join historian John Meffert for an opening lecture and overview of the days to follow. Then look at Savannah's beautiful architectural heritage during a guided walking tour led by an expert architectural historian viewing key homes, buildings, and squares along the way. Then toast your arrival in Savannah at a welcome dinner. *(Dinner)*

**Monday, March 23**

## Savannah's Historic Homes

Depart by trolley for a full day of touring the best historic sites in Savannah. Enjoy an in-depth tour of the beautiful Mercer-Williams House, one of the city's most storied historic mansions, for a guided tour of its grand interior spaces. Pause for a delicious lunch of Low Country cuisine at a popular local restaurant. Choose between an afternoon at leisure or visiting the SCAD

Museum, the main art venue of the growing and innovative Savannah College of Art and Design. Enjoy a student-led tour of the galleries and ongoing shows and learn about the college's unique urban campus. The evening is free.

*(Breakfast, Lunch)*

**Tuesday, March 24**

## Jekyll Island

Discover the fascinating history of Jekyll Island. At the end of the nineteenth century, many of the wealthiest men in America, including J.P. Morgan, Joseph Pulitzer, William Rockefeller, and Cornelius Vanderbilt, purchased the entire island as a hunting resort prized for its "splendid isolation." Today Jekyll Island is part of Georgia's Sea Isles and boasts "Millionaire's Village"—240 acres of extravagant homes and winter cottages recognized as a National Historic Landmark. Following an architectural tour of the island, enjoy a delicious lunch. At the Jekyll Island Arts Association, housed in the historic Goodyear Cottage, meet local artists and enjoy free time for shopping. Before

returning to Savannah, visit the Georgia Sea Turtle Center and learn about the turtles in its rehabilitation program. Return to Savannah in the late afternoon and the evening is at leisure.

*(Breakfast, Lunch)*

**Wednesday, March 25**

## Savannah's Art Scene

Begin today with a special visit to the Owens-Thomas House, where the Assistant Curator of Historical Interpretation will welcome the group before opening hours. Tour the grandiose mansion and Slave Quarters. Continue to the Telfair Academy, one of the nation's oldest art museums, and tour the original historic collection with the Director of Curatorial Affairs. Next be welcomed by the Director to the contemporary Jepson Center and explore its art collections. Enjoy free time for lunch and shopping and independent sightseeing. In the late afternoon, enjoy an after-hours visit to the Green-Meldrim House, one of the finest examples of Gothic Revival architecture in the south. Following a visit to this

fascinating house museum, enjoy Southern hospitality with a relaxing lemonade reception on its wonderful porch. In the evening enjoy the company of your fellow travelers over dinner.

*(Breakfast, Dinner)*

## Thursday, March 26

### Beaufort

Drive north to Beaufort, South Carolina, a picturesque old seaport with narrow streets shaded by huge live oaks and lined with 18th- and 19th-century homes famous for their unique Beaufort-style architecture. Beaufort's history includes Spanish and French explorers, Native American inhabitants, British settlements, and significant Civil War battles. Beaufort

was the second area in North America that was discovered by the Spanish and the site of the first fort on the continent (1525). A scenic, driving tour of the city takes you on a journey through the old town, exploring local history, architecture, horticulture, and Low Country life. Be guided by National Park rangers through Beaufort's Reconstruction Era National Historical Park, and see important sites, including the 2024 Harriett Tubman statue and the Robert Smalls House exterior, owned by the National Trust. Following lunch in a local restaurant, visit the John Mark Verdier House, a remarkable example of Beaufort's gracious antebellum architectural style. Enjoy strolls through many of the city's most delightful neighborhoods

including a stop in Port Royal to visit its Cypress Wetlands, a birdwatchers paradise! Return to Savannah in the late afternoon. Bid farewell to Savannah during a memorable dinner in the Olde Pink House, an exceptional local restaurant in a beautiful historic building.

*(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)*

## Friday, March 27

### Departures

After breakfast at the hotel, visit the Davenport House Museum, one of the finest Federal-style houses in the United States, with delicate ironwork and a handsome elliptical stairway. Check out of the hotel. Transfer independently to the airport for return flights home.

*(Breakfast)*







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## Tour Information

### Tour Cost:

Land Package .....\$4,995

Single Supplement.....\$695 in street-facing room

Single Supplement.....\$895 in river-view room

*Tour price is per person based on double occupancy, with a minimum of 15 paying participants.*

**Activity Level:** Moderate, good overall mobility required.

**Deposit & Final Payment:** A deposit of \$1,000 per registrant is required to reserve space on the tour, of which \$500 is nonrefundable for ISDI's registration and planning fee unless the tour is cancelled due to low enrollment. This deposit may be paid by check or by Visa, MasterCard, or American Express. Final balance will be invoiced and is due on December 11, 2025, and must be paid by check to International Seminar Design, Inc. Registrations are accepted after this date on a space-available basis with payment in full by check only.

**Flights:** Airfare is not included in the tour price. Participants are responsible for their own air arrangements. Please do not purchase airline tickets until the operation of the tour is confirmed by ISDI.

**Cancellations & Refunds:** Cancellation by participant must be made in writing to ISDI and is effective only upon acknowledged receipt by ISDI. There is a non-refundable registration and planning fee of \$500 per person regardless of cancellation date. Written cancellation received by ISDI on or before December 11, 2025: full refund minus \$500 per person registration and planning fee. Written cancellation received by ISDI between December 12, 2025 and February 5, 2026: full refund minus \$2,500 per person cancellation fee (includes registration and planning fee). Written cancellation received by ISDI on or after February 6, 2026: no refund. Tour registration is non-transferable. In the case of cancellation, substitutions are not allowed. After the tour has commenced, no refunds will be issued for any reason including, but not limited to, unused portions of tour. If the tour is cancelled by ISDI or National Trust Tours due to low enrollment, active registrants will receive a full refund of all tour payments.

**Tour Inclusions:** 5 nights at the River Street Inn; 5 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 3 dinners, 2 glasses of wine at dinners 2 glasses of wine or beer at included dinners; land transportation by private trolley or bus; entrance fees to sites and visits listed in the itinerary; academic leadership of John Meffert; services of an ISDI tour director, expert local on-site guides; gratuities for local guides, drivers, and waitstaff at included meals; bottled water on coach; service charges and taxes. (Dinner at the Olde Pink House will be moved to a different venue if there are fewer than 20 participants.)

**Tour Exclusions:** Airline tickets, airline taxes and surcharges, and baggage fees; airport portage; airport transfers; meals other than those specified in the itinerary; gratuities for hotel housekeeping; personal items such as telephone calls, room service, valet service, à-la-carte orders, specialty wines and liquors, laundry charges, travel extensions, or tour deviations; travel insurance; any other items not specifically included in the itinerary.

**Terms and Conditions:** Upon receipt of registration, ISDI will send registrant a Participant Tour Agreement detailing the full terms and conditions for this tour. This document must be signed and returned to ISDI before participant's registration is considered complete and any arrangements can be confirmed. ISDI will send all documents pertaining to the tour by email unless specifically requested otherwise.

**Travel Insurance:** Travel Insurance is not included in the tour cost, but participants are strongly encouraged to purchase a travel protection plan in conjunction with this tour, including coverage of trip cancellation, trip interruption, emergency evacuation/repatriation, medical expenses, lost or damaged baggage, and other expenses and/or losses incurred due to unexpected situations, as well as Cancel for Any Reason. Should a participant cancel at any time after registering for the tour, ISDI must strictly abide by the cancellation policy outlined herein. Travel insurance information will be sent upon tour registration. For additional information, please contact National Trust Tours at 888-484-8785.

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## TO REGISTER ONLINE:

Visit  
<https://nationaltrusttours.com>

## TO REGISTER BY PHONE:

Call National Trust Tours at  
888.484.8785

## TO REGISTER BY EMAIL:

Email National Trust Tours at  
[info@nationaltrusttours.com](mailto:info@nationaltrusttours.com)



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**National Trust Tours**

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*December 2–7, 2025*

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## **Pittsburgh: Art & Architecture in the Steel City**

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## **Architecture, Art & Craft in Asheville**

*October 5–9, 2026*

## **An Ode to New Orleans**

*November 15–19, 2026*

***For more information, visit [nationaltrusttours.com](https://nationaltrusttours.com)***

*Travel with National Trust Tours is open to members of the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP), a privately-funded non-profit organization, works to save America's historic places. Membership is \$20 for individuals and \$30 for families. To learn more about the NTHP, visit [www.savingplaces.org](https://www.savingplaces.org).*