

Charleston & Savannah

May 31-June 6, 2009

Featuring

The Spoleto Festival USA



Experience the rich history of Charleston and Savannah, two of America's most beautifully preserved cities, with History Museums' Director Guy McLain and Courses and Travel Curator Jeanne Fontaine. Our tour takes place during the Spoleto Festival USA.

Since its inception in 1977, the Spoleto Festival has firmly established itself as one of the world's major arts festivals. Each spring, Spoleto Festival fills Charleston's historic theaters, churches and outdoor spaces with over 100 performances by renowned artists and emerging performers. "Perhaps America's premier arts festival," declared the Atlanta Journal Constitution.

We'll enjoy four nights at the historic Mills House Hotel in Charleston and two nights at the historic Mulberry Inn in Savannah with full breakfast daily. Each day, we'll experience the history and colorful past of the colonial, antebellum and Victorian eras with guided city and walking tours of museums and historic sites. Full assistance in planning your schedule at the Spoleto Festival is included. The Spoleto calendar of events is expected to be issued in January.

Sunday/May 31

Arrival in Charleston, SC where we will be met by our guide and escorted to the **Mills House Hotel** in the heart of historic Charleston. Described in 1853 as the "finest hotel south of New York," it was the place to stay, hosting notable personalities such as General Robert E. Lee and President Theodore Roosevelt. Charleston's renown as a premier destination holds just as true today as it did centuries ago. Early this evening, we'll enjoy a welcome reception at the hotel and learn a bit about Charleston's past, the history of the hotel, and what we can expect to see and do during our stay. *Afternoon and evening free for Spoleto Activities.*

Monday/June 01

Enjoy a guided walking tour of Charleston through areas where carriages and motor coaches are not permitted. Charleston's rich history of traditions and lore are revealed during this two-hour stroll through America's most charming historical district.

This tour will include:

- Rainbow Row
- Historic Waterfront Battery
- Antebellum Mansions
- A visual tour of Fort Sumter
- Hidden Gardens & Courtyards
- Churches & Graveyards
- The Revolutionary and Civil War
- Two Meeting Street Inn

Afternoon and evening free for Spoleto activities.

Tuesday/June 02

Stroll next door from our hotel to tour the Gibbes Museum of Art. Inspired by his lifelong love of art, James S. Gibbes, Sr. left \$100,000 in a trust to be used for the "erection or purchase of a suitable building to be used for the exhibition of paintings." Kentucky architect, Frank P. Millburn was hired to design the gallery. This Beaux Arts building opened to the public on April 11, 1905 amidst great enthusiasm in Charleston and the American Art world. In its second century, the Gibbes Museum continues to fulfill its mission to offer a thorough knowledge of the visual culture of Charleston, the Low Country and the American South from the colonial era to modern day.

Afternoon and evening free for Spoleto activities.

Wednesday/June 03

Today we'll visit **Middleton Place**, a National Historic Landmark and a carefully preserved 18th-century plantation that has survived revolution, Civil War and earthquake. It was the home of four important generations of Middletons, beginning with Henry Middleton, President of the First Continental Congress; Arthur, a signer of the Declaration of Independence; Henry, Governor of South Carolina and an American Minister to Russia; and Williams, a signer of the Ordinance of Secession. We'll enjoy a tour of the home, the gardens, and the stables and stay for a taste of the old south in the fine restaurant overlooking the gardens where traditional low country food is served in an elegant setting.

Afternoon and evening free for Spoleto activities.

Thursday/June 04

We depart Charleston this morning for one of the South's glorious cities Savannah. En route, we'll stop in historic **Beaufort, SC**. Founded in 1711, it is the second-oldest city in South Carolina, next to Charleston. More than 304 acres of this town have been designated a National Historic Landmark. The city is home to one of the nation's largest collections of antebellum homes as well as a quaint waterfront downtown district with shopping, fine dining and major marinas. We'll meet our guide and take a walking tour of the historic area and stay for lunch before we continue to Savannah. Arrive in Savannah to check into the **Mulberry Inn**, listed on the National Register of Historic properties and offering boutique-style lodging, lush courtyards and daily afternoon tea service.

Friday/ June 05

Savannah's recorded history begins in 1773, the year General James **Oglethorpe** and the 120 passengers of the good ship *Anne* landed on a bluff high along the Savannah River. Oglethorpe named the 13th and final American colony "Georgia" after England's King George II. Savannah became its first city. Savannah is known as America's first planned city. Oglethorpe laid the city out in a series of grids that allowed for wide open streets intertwined with shady public squares and parks that served as town meeting places and centers of business. Savannah had 24 original squares with 21 still in existence.

Pre-Civil War Savannah was praised as the most picturesque and serene city in America. It was known for its grand oaks festooned with Spanish moss and its genteel citizenry. The Georgia Historical Society was founded in that era. Magnificent Forsyth Park got its ornate fountain, a sight worth seeing. At the time of the Civil War the city suffered from the sea blockades and its economy crumbled, but the city itself did not fall until Union General William Tecumseh Sherman entered on December 22, 1864, after burning the city of Atlanta and everything else in their path on his "march to the sea." Upon entering Savannah, Sherman was said to be so impressed by its beauty that he could not destroy it. On December 22, 1864, he sent a famous telegram to President Abraham Lincoln, offering the city as a Christmas present. Savannah's Historic District was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1966. It is one of the largest historic landmarks in the country. We'll experience the beauty of Savannah, its beautiful homes, parks, and its history with one of Savannah's colorful guides.

Saturday/June 06 - We depart this charming southern city today and return home.

Tour Includes:

Four nights at the historic Mills House Hotel
Two nights at the historic Mulberry Inn Full breakfast daily
Welcome reception and orientation at the Mills House
Airport transfers (either individual or group basis)
Motor coach service to Middleton Place and Savannah
Walking tour in Charleston and Savannah
Walking tour and lunch in Beaufort
Private visit to the Gibbes Art Museum in Charleston
All free activities for Spoleto Festival (Event calendar expected in January 2009)
Tour and lunch at Middleton Place
Tour packet of information with city maps, historic facts, restaurant choices
Gratuities to drivers and guides (individual airport transfers not included)

Tour Cost: \$2,185, land only; single supplement add \$700. A deposit of \$500 is due with your registration.

Not Included: Airfare (a group fare will be considered once the minimum number has been reached) estimated at \$150-\$200 roundtrip from Bradley International Airport; tickets for special concerts and events for Spoleto; meals not mentioned in the itinerary; travel insurance.

Terms & Conditions: The Museum School reserves the right to cancel the tour 60 days prior to departure due to insufficient enrollment. Participants will receive a full refund in this event. **Deposit is fully refundable until the tour is declared operational and participants have been notified. Cancellation/Refunds:** No refunds issued once your deposit/registration is processed and tour is declared operational.



Please call Charlene Corris 866-956-4440 to register
Charleston & Savannah
May 31-June 6, 2009

Return to:
Custom Travel Concepts
PO Box 80391
Springfield, MA 01138
Fax: (413)-273-1866
E-mail: histours@aol.com

Please reserve _____ place(s) in the Charleston & Savannah Tour.
Please circle one: **\$2185, double occupancy** or **\$2885 (includes a \$700, single supplement)**.
_____ **Please send me information on Group Airfare.** _____ **I do not need Airfare.**

Enclosed please find a deposit in the amount of \$500 each for a total of: \$_____.
This deposit is fully refundable until tour is declared operational.
Please register on or before Dec. 10th, 2008. Balance is due on or before **March 15, 2009.**

Legal Name(s) _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ E-mail: _____

Home Phone: _____ Business Phone: _____

Accommodations: _____ **Single Room (additional cost \$700)** _____ **Double Room* (sharing)**

Roommate's name*: _____

Special requests:

(Example: smoking / king bed / 2 beds / near elevator) _____

All rooms will be non-smoking unless otherwise requested.

Important: By sending in my deposit, I am indicating that I have read and understand the Terms and Conditions in the itinerary. Deposit can be made by personal check payable to Custom Travel Concepts or by Master Card, Visa, American Express or Discover Card.

____ Personal Check ____ Master Card ____ VISA ____ Discover ____ AMEX
Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____
Security Code: _____ Amount \$ _____

By signing below I authorize the Springfield Museums to process my credit card payment.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

(Name as it appears on Credit Card)