

Savannah Secrets



You've walked our streets and admired our beautiful parks, squares and mansions, but underneath the appealing aesthetics of this centuries old city are some historical accounts and quirky facts that helped to shape our nation.

The Pirates House, A famous Savannah restaurant, was actually a tavern frequented by pirates who sailed the Caribbean in 1794. Events at the Pirates House were the inspiration for Robert Lewis Stevenson's novel, *Treasure Island*.

Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil, the John Berendt novel about secrets, socialites and murder spent more than five years on the New York Times best-seller list holding the record for the longest running best-seller in history.

In 2002, the American Institute of Parapsychology named Savannah, "**America's Most Haunted City**." Based on Savannah's history of fires, plagues, wars and voodoo, they determined Savannah was the perfect place for supernatural activity.

While admiring **Savannah's splendid architecture**, you might start to notice a recurring color painted on the door frames, porches and window sills of many Savannah homes. This blue/green color, or "**Haint Blue**," is not only aesthetically pleasing but has an important purpose, and that is to **ward off evil spirits**. "Haint Blue" paint was first used by African Slaves to secure entry-point into their houses from spirits. According to the Geechee/Gulla culture of the Lowcountry, the blue/green color of "Haint Blue" represents water which, it is believed, spirits can not pass over.

Five months after General Oglethorpe and the original settlers landed in Savannah, **42 Jewish refugees from Spain arrived in July 1733**. This was the largest immigration of Jews at one time to the new world during the colonial period.

Florence Martus, born August 7, 1868, is a Savannahian whose understanding and application of the words "Southern Hospitality" brought her fame as the **Waving Girl**. Martus lived with her brother, lighthouse keeper George Martus, between 1887 and 1931 near the entrance of the Savannah harbor. During this time she would wave a welcome to each incoming ship and wave a goodbye to every outgoing vessel. During her years at the lighthouse, she greeted more than 50,000 vessels. A memorial to her legacy is located on Savannah's Historic River Street. This is the first memorial to a Georgia woman in any city park.

Tomochichi, Chief of the Yamacraw Indians, was rumored to stand over seven feet tall, have only one good eye and wear a cape of bear skin. Tomochichi is buried in Wright Square; a large boulder marks his resting place.

While the **Spanish Moss** that hangs from Savannah's majestic oaks is a true reminder that you are in the romantic deep South, it **does not make a great souvenir**. Often undetectable by the naked eye, a small biting bug called a chigger makes Spanish Moss its home. During the early days of the Colony, residents often stuffed and bounded their mattresses with the soft and bountiful Spanish Moss only to wake up irritated and itchy after the tiny bugs invaded their slumber. As a result, a common phrase emerged in Savannah, and it was – "Goodnight neighbor, sleep tight, and **don't let the bed bugs bite!**"

Besides English, the other languages spoken in the early days of the colony were Indian languages, Spanish, Portuguese, Yiddish, French, Gaelic and German.

Savannah over the years has become the fictional home of some of the silver screen's most memorable movies including "Forrest Gump," "Roots," "Gator," "Glory," "Something to Talk About," "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil," "Forces of Nature," "The General's Daughter," and the Robert Redford golf epic, "Legend of Bagger Vance." Hollywood loves Savannah because our beautiful Historic District and Low Country landscape make an instant movie set. While in Savannah take a movie tour and see the sights featured in some of pop culture's favorite films.

In a study published by the Savannah Historic Foundation, one of the most admired preservation groups in the country, **more than 40 percent of 2,500 buildings inventoried in Savannah had architectural or historical significance.**

While wandering around Savannah, if you happen to take a stroll down **St. Julian Street**, you will notice you are walking on **oyster shells**. You have discovered **Tabby**. Tabby is a type of cement or plaster used for mortar, walls and walkways. Because limestone was not available along the coast, the colonists burned oyster shells and mixed the ash with sand and water to make cement.

The first movie shown at the Lucas Theater when it opened in 1921 was "Camille." It starred silent film actor Rudolph Valentino.

When the Colony of Georgia was founded in 1733; **Catholics, lawyers and hard liquor were banned.** But considering that Savannah is now home to the largest celebration in the South honoring St. Patrick (an Irish Catholic Saint) and is famous for the "To-Go Cup" (thanks to the city's liberal view on cocktails to-go); Savannah has obviously dropped all bans created long ago.

Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. was founded in Savannah in 1912 by a Savannah woman named **Juliette Gordon Low**. Her childhood home now serves as the Girl Scouts' National Headquarters.

SHOPPING

Antiques

Arthur Smith Antiques

402 Bull St., Savannah
(912) 236-9701

Clipper Trading Co., Inc.

201 W. Broughton St., Savannah
(912) 238-3660

Jere's Antiques, Inc.

9 N. Jefferson St., Savannah
(912) 236-2815

Southern Antiques & Interiors

28 Abercorn St., Savannah
(912) 236-5080

The Corner Door Antiques & Accessories

417 Whitaker St., Savannah
(912) 238-5869

V & J Duncan

12 East Taylor Street, Savannah
(912) 232-0338

Art Galleries

The Downstairs Gallery

19 1/2 W. Gordon St., Savannah
(912) 233-0920

Chroma Gallery

31 Barnard St., Savannah
(912) 232-2787

Cobb's Galleries

122 E. 37th Street, Savannah
912.234.1582

Compass Prints, Inc.

205 W. Congress St., Savannah
(912) 234-3537

Friedman's Fine Art

28 W. State St., Savannah
(912) 234-1322

Gallery 209, Inc.

209 E. River St., Savannah
(912) 236-4583

Goldeneye Gallery

5 W. York St., Savannah
912.239.9977

Art Galleries (continued)

Grand Bohemian Gallery

700 Drayton Street, Savannah
912.721.5007

Art Galleries (continued)

Parker Sutton Gallery

104 East Broughton St., Savannah
(912) 441-8700

Candy & Confectionary

Kilwin's Fine Chocolates & Ice Cream

20 E. Broughton Street, Savannah
912-944-2880

River Street Sweets

13 E. River St., Savannah
(912) 233-6220

Savannah Candy Kitchen

225 E. River St., Savannah
(912) 233-8411

Clothing

Bleu Belle Boutique

205 West Broughton St., Savannah
(912) 443-0011

Citi Trends

102 Fahm St., Savannah
(912) 236-1561

Go Fish Clothing & Jewelry

106 W. Broughton St., Savannah
(912) 231-0609

Hilton Decker/Nickie Grace

15 W. York St., Savannah
(912) 236-6632

J. Parker Ltd.

19 West Broughton St., Savannah
(912) 234-0004

Kathi Rich

2515 Abercorn Street, Savannah
(912) 236-7424

Clothing (continued)

Red Clover

53 Montgomery Street, Savannah
912.236.4053

Gifts & Souvenirs "The Book" Gift Shop

127 East Gordon St., Savannah
(912) 233-3867

Baskets Bears & T's...Oh My!

305-307 E. River St., Savannah
(912) 232-4546

Brigette's Boutique

206 E. Bay Street, Savannah
(912) 233-9122

Brighter Day Natural Foods

1102 Bull St., Savannah
(912) 236-4703

Diaspora Market Place

510 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Savannah
(912) 232-2626

Lowcountry Gourmet Foods

123 E Liberty St, Savannah
(912) 233-9155

My House

206 West Broughton St., Savannah
(912) 236-4111

Nourish

202 W. Broughton Street, Savannah
912.232.3213

Pattie's Hallmark Shop

20 E. Broughton St., Savannah
(912) 236-9548

River Street Market Place DBA River Market Group

502 E. River Street, Savannah
(912) 220-9100

Savannah Bee Company Honey House

104 W Broughton St, Savannah
(912) 233-7873

Savannah Fine Linens

412 Whitaker St., Savannah
(912) 447-5885

Gifts & Souvenirs(continued) Savannah Sails & Rails

125 East Broad St., Savannah
(912) 232-7201

The Christmas Shop

307 Bull St., Savannah
(912) 234-5343

The Christmas Shop on the River Street

219 W. River Street, Savannah
912.236.8918

The Treasure Chest

32 Barnard Street, Savannah
(912) 238-0664

Historical Attractions / Museums

Coastal Heritage Society

303 Martin L. King, Jr. Blvd., Savannah
(912) 651-6840

Fort Pulaski National Monument

P O Box 30757, Savannah
(912) 786-5787

Georgia Historical Society

501 Whitaker St., Savannah
(912) 651-2125

Isaiah Davenport House Museum

324 E. State St., Savannah
(912) 236-8097

Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace

10 E. Oglethorpe Ave., Savannah
(912) 233-4501

Massie Heritage Center

207 E. Gordon St., Savannah
(912) 201-5070

Old Fort Jackson

1 Fort Jackson Road, Savannah
(912) 232-3945

Owens-Thomas House

124 Abercorn Street, Savannah
912.233.9743

Historical Attractions / Museums (continued)

Savannah History Museum

303 Martin L. King, Jr. Blvd., Savannah
(912) 238-1779

Ships of the Sea Maritime Museum

41 Martin L. King, Jr. Blvd., Savannah
(912) 232-1511

Telfair Museum of Art

121 Barnard St., Savannah
(912) 232-1177

The Andrew Low House

329 Abercorn Street, Savannah
(912) 233-685

The Roundhouse Railroad Museum

601 W. Harris St., Savannah
(912) 651-6823

Tybee Island Historical Society

P O Box 366, Tybee Island
(912) 786-5801

DINING & DRINKING**Pubs / Sports Grills****Kevin Barry's**

117 West River St, Savannah
912-233-9626

Murphy's Law Public House

409 West Congress St., Savannah
(912) 443-0855

Churchill's Pub

13-17 West Bay Street, Savannah
(912) 232-8501

Coach's Corner Sports Bar & Grill

3016 E. Victory Drive, Savannah
912.352.2933

Jen's and Friends

7 E Congress St Suite 102, Savannah
(912) 238-5367

Pubs / Sports Grills (continued)

Locos Grill & Pub

301 W. Broughton Street, Savannah
912.236.8711

McDonough's Restaurant & Lounge

21 E McDonough St, Savannah
(912) 234-1971

Moon River Brewing Company, LLC

21 W. Bay St., Savannah
(912) 447-0943

Six Pence Pub

245 Bull St, Savannah
(912) 786-9003

The Dawg House Grill

6724 Waters Ave, Savannah
(912) 236-1557

Seafood**Belford's Savannah Seafood and Steaks**

219 W. Bryan St. Suite 207, Savannah
(912) 233-2626

Chart House

202 W. Bay St., Savannah
(912) 234-6686

Cobblestone Conch House

225 West River St., Savannah
(912) 232-5551

Crab Shack at Chimney Creek

40-A Estill Hammock Rd., Tybee Island
(912) 786-9857

Dockside Seafood Restaurant and Steak House

201 W. River St., Savannah
(912) 236-9253

Dolphin Reef Oceanfront Restaurant

1409 Strand St, Tybee Island
(912) 786-8400

Fiddler's Crab House

131 W. River St., Savannah
(912) 644-7172

Seafood (continued)

Island Oyster Bar

112-A Oatland Island Rd. , Savannah
(912) 898-8622

Love's Seafood Restaurant

6817 Basin Road, Savannah
(912) 925-3616

MacElwee's Seafood Restaurant

101 Lovell Ave., Tybee Island
(912) 786-8888

Pearl's Saltwater Grille

7000 La Roche Ave, Savannah
(912) 352-8221

River House Seafood

125 W River St, Savannah
(912) 234-1900

River Street Oyster Bar

411 E. River St., Savannah
(912) 232-1565

Sting Ray's Seafood

1403 Butler Ave., Tybee Island
(912) 786-0209

Sundae Cafe & Deli

304 1st St., Tybee Island
(912) 786-7694

The Shrimp Factory

313 E. River St., Savannah
(912) 236-4229

Tubby's Tank House

115 E River St, Savannah
(912) 233-0770

Uncle Bubba's Oyster House

104 Bryan Woods Rd., Savannah
(912) 897-6101

Southern**The Lady & Sons**

102 W. Congress St., Savannah
(912) 233-2600

Mom & Nikki's Soul Food

714 MLK Blvd., Savannah
912.233.7636

BBQ

Barnes BBQ Express

109 Whitaker St., Savannah
(912) 236-1557

Gerald's Diner

324 W. Bolton Street, Savannah
912.786.4227

Johnny Harris Restaurant

1651 E. Victory Dr., Savannah
(912) 354-7810

Savannah's Old Timey Town BBQ

4912 Ogeechee Road, Savannah
912.232.1199

Sticky Fingers Rib House

7921 Abercorn St., Savannah
(912) 925-7427

Mexican / Southwest

El Real Mexican Restaurant

105 Weisenbaker Road, Rincon
912.826.3524

Toucan Cafe

531 Stephenson Ave, Savannah
(912) 790-7175

American Fare

Five Guys Burgers and Fries

P O Box 8007, Savannah
(407) 340-8585

Starfish Cafe

711 East Broad St., Savannah

Alligator Soul

114 Barnard Street, Savannah
912.232.7899

Billy's Place

21 E. McDonough Street, Savannah
912.231.9049

Boar's Head Restaurant

River Street, Savannah
912.651.9660

Crystal Beer Parlor

301 W. Jones St., Savannah
(912) 443-9200

American Fare (continued)

Exchange on Waters

6710 Waters Ave., Savannah
912-525-1148

Kasey's Gourmet Grille

4829 Waters Avenue, Savannah
912-355-9250

Mrs. Wilkes Dining Room

107 W. Jones St., Savannah
(912) 232-5997

Old Savannah Diner

6730 Waters Avenue, Savannah
912.355.3404

One-Eyed Lizzy's

417 E River St, Savannah
912-341-8897

Papillote

218 W Broughton St., Savannah
(912) 232-1881

Piccadilly

7804 Abercorn St, Savannah
(912) 353-9335

Rocks Modern Grill

102 W Bay St, Savannah
(912) 721-9100

Ruth's Chris Steak House

111 W Bay Street, Savannah
(912) 721-4800

Sam Sneads Oak Grill & Tavern

7 Sylvester C. Forney Drive, Savannah
(912) 963.0797

The Cotton Exchange

201 E. River Street, Savannah
912-232-7088

The Distillery

416 W Liberty , Savannah
(912) 236-1772

The Pirates' House

20 E. Broad St., Savannah

(912) 233-5757

American Fare (continued)

Tony Roma's Ribs *Seafood * Steaks

7 E. Bay St., Savannah

(912) 341-7427

Wild Wing Cafe

27 Barnard Street, Savannah

(912) 790-9464

Night Clubs

Mercury Lounge

125 West Congress St., Savannah

(912) 447-6954

Savannah Smiles Dueling Pianos Saloon

314-B Williamson St., Suite B, Savannah

(912) 527-6453

Wet Willies

101 East River Street, Savannah

(912) 233-5650

