



Charming Southern Porches:

Stately Antebellum Mansions, Lively Gullah Culture & Wildlife Marshes of the Low Country by Convertible Sprinter - a Trips Exclusive Tour!

Charleston — Savannah — Beaufort

May 2 - 8, 2020 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 in convertible sprinters, the most immersive way to experience the 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

May 2, 2020 - Your Welcome Dinner in Charleston!

Depart for **Charleston, SC**, today where on arrival you'll be met and assisted by your TRIPS representative. Check in at the **Towne Place Suites Charleston** where you'll stay this first exciting night in the Old South! Enjoy your scrumptious **Welcome Dinner** included on the Porch at **Oyster House**, a top-rated local seafood destination attractively showcased in a former warehouse, featuring a popular raw bar, craft cocktails and breezy outdoor patio.

Overnight: Charleston - Towne Place Suites (D)

May 3, 2020 - Charleston and Beaufort Welcome

Enjoy breakfast included at your hotel prior to checking out. Then it's off to experience your **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. Lunch is on your own with free time in **Historic Downtown Charleston**, offering numerous fine dining establishments noted for fresh seafood. Enjoy shopping at **City Market**, a 200 year old brick marketplace right at the center of town featuring tasty local foods and crafts. Continue on to **Beaufort, SC**, on **Port Royal Island** renowned for its Southern charm, friendly town folk, lovely mansions, and delicious local fresh foods, all on a beautiful waterfront setting. You'll get to stay awhile in this comfortable and relaxing small southern town with its very walkable downtown and gracious locals. After you've been properly welcomed to the **Low Country** with a refreshing glass of peach tea at a **Southern plantation home**, you'll enjoy a **welcome cocktail and light hors d'oeuvres** served on the Porch and lawn, and free time for a bit of shopping. You'll then check in to the **Hilton Garden Inn Beaufort** and enjoy a **Welcome Drink and Reception** on an Antebellum Porch overlooking the River, while viewing the Southern sunset. Your **welcome dinner** overlooking the Beaufort River is included, and served on the porch (weather permitting, otherwise window view seating).

Overnight: Beaufort - Hilton Garden Inn (B/D)

May 4, 2020 - Coastal Wonders of the Low Country!

After a hearty breakfast at the hotel, you're off to catch the **Spirit of the Islands** onboard our **Convertible Sprinters** with 360 degree unobstructed panoramic views! Travel beaches and backroads inaccessible to motorcoaches as you discover all that makes this area so unique. Roll back the retractable roof once you're off of the main roads to immerse yourself in the wild scenery. Breathe in the earthy marsh and salty tidal air, soak in the sunlight, and revel in the fresh air breezes! Along this historic "Journey from Slavery to Freedom" you'll visit amazing sites such as **Praise House**, **Pat Conroy's Grave**, the **Slave Cemetery** and **Penn Center**. View the **Plantation House** along the impressive **Avenue of Oaks**. Next you can do a little beachcombing at an undisturbed and beautiful barrier Island. Gaze at the historic **lighthouse** and climb it if you dare! Walk along beaches seeing the varied eco-systems of this Audubon and turtle preserve, and also the movie location of the Vietnam beach scene where Forrest Gump carried Bubba to safety. 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. Visit the **Shrimp Docks**, where your fresh shrimp was harvested for today's lunch! A local shrimper shows how they gather their sea catch with nets, while you learn the heritage and tradition of commercial shrimping in the low country. Heading back to the hotel, time permitting, stop at a local farm market where you can purchase and take back homemade culinary delights such as WEE Gumbo, or pick out a watermelon to enjoy later this evening. Relax at the hotel before departing for a unique **Fish Camp** experience, where you'll dine on the porch overlooking their scenic docks as the evening sun sets on the sound.

Overnight: Beaufort - Hilton Garden Inn (B/L/D)

May 5, 2020 - Stunning Savannah!

Enjoy your included hotel breakfast right before a less-than-an-hour ride to revel in your remarkable tour of **Savannah, GA**, in our convertible mini bus! It's the very best way to view Savannah's historic beauty with **expansive 360 degree panoramic views** and a fully

retractable glass top. Whisk past picturesque steeples, Spanish moss and South Carolina sunshine on this special 90 minute driving tour of the **Historic District** before venturing off to discover the best of the Low Country! 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! View 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** (1702-1775). You can even try your hand at a Cricket game on the original grass Cricket lawn here. Savor Oyster Appetizers while the sun sets on a porch nestled in the heart of **Sandfly**, offering panoramic views of the marsh and tidal inlet waters. Then move inside for window view seating to enjoy your included **dinner featuring locally sourced, fresh seafood**.

Overnight: Hilton Garden Inn Beaufort (B/L/D)

May 6, 2020 - Beaufort by Land and Sea

Enjoy a Low Country tradition, **Shrimp and Grits breakfast!** Coastal fishermen and their families developed this culinary treat many years ago, calling it "Breakfast Shrimp" (of course other traditional breakfast items will also be served). Then embark on your **Horse-drawn Carriage Ride through Antebellum Beaufort**. Re-live its richly colorful past courtesy of our professional guides and the clipity-clop of our horses! As you learn of Beaufort's Civil War History, feast your senses on all the Antebellum and Victorian Architecture, which even includes Hollywood movie sites. Enjoy some free time to shop at uniquely creative boutiques and artisan shops throughout highly walkable **Downtown Beaufort**. Lunch is on your own among the many excellent local eateries located here. Afterward you'll get to relax in the balmy breeze as the **Captain and First Mate lead your boat tour** amidst the flora and fauna of the wild Salt Marsh that's home to

dolphins, osprey and much more! You'll even **meet a Conquistador** to learn of the Spanish settlement here that pre-dates St. Augustine. Enjoy Spanish music, cocktails and light hors d' oeuvres before walking a short block to your included **dinner on the Riverfront** for our last amazing sunset and delicious locally sourced seafood.

Overnight: Hilton Garden Inn Beaufort (B/D)

May 7, 2020 - Your Savannah Rooftop Rendezvous

After breakfast, check out to depart for **Savannah** where your first stop is the **Maritime Center** to experience, discover, explore and connect with these waters, some of the most pristine in the country. Enjoy dynamic exhibits that dive deep into the ecology, history, culture, art and recreation that define the Sound. Watch amazing creatures, including many species of fish in a **3,000-gallon aquarium!** Then board your boat with naturalist guides who'll take us through the Sound's unique waterways and eco-systems, created by the daily large inflow of fresh water from the ACE Basin. Enjoy your included **lunch at our Premier Rooftop Restaurant**, right in the Historic Landmark District of **Downtown Savannah**, to immerse yourself in gorgeous vistas and delicious cuisine. This ideal location overlooking the **Savannah River** offers stunning views, perfectly complementing this tasty adventure on River Street. Afterward, tour one of the most Historic Homes in Savannah, and step outside to meet **Johnny Mercer** for a farewell mint julep in the garden. He'll sing a few notes of "Moon River," and tell stories about his life in Savannah. In late afternoon, you'll head out to **CourtYard Marriott Savannah Airport** to check in, relax and enjoy dinner on your own at the adjacent outlet shops boasting several fine restaurants.

Overnight: CourtYard Marriott Savannah Airport (B/L)

May 8, 2020 - Farewell Savannah!

After breakfast, our TRIPS Representative will assist with your hotel check-out and Savannah Airport check-in for your homeward flight. **Happy memories of your enchanted Low Country days and nights will surely stay with you forever!**

(B/L)

Inclusions

- Roundtrip airport transfers
- One-way airfare to Charleston and from Savannah (checked baggage fees are not included)
- 4 nights lodging at the Hilton Garden Inn in Beaufort, SC
- 1 nights lodging at Towne Place Suites in Charleston, SC
- 1 nights lodging at CourtYard Marriott Airport in Savannah, GA
- Breakfast daily
- 3 lunches and 5 dinners including our premier Rooftop dining experience
- All sightseeing and admissions as 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



Trip cancellation/interruption Travel Protection is available and strongly suggested.

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 **\$500.00** deposit is required to hold space on this tour.

This deposit is fully refundable up to January 23, 2020. **Final payment is due in the TRIPS office on or before January 23, 2020.**

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

50% non-refundable as of January 24, 2020. 100% non-refundable as of March 3, 2020.

Make checks payable to **VeraBank Voyagers**

PO Box 1009 Henderson, TX 75653

Sue Plummer (903) 657-8521 ext. 5725

CST # 2057913-10

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