

Jewels of the South

March 2-7, 2025



Savannah, GA, has a well-deserved reputation as one of the most enchanting cities of the old south, and, if anything, is more beautiful today than it was in the past. And Charleston, SC, is in that same class. Which is why I've paired up to lead a photo trip there with my old friend (and photography teacher at Nikon School for nearly 30 years), Bill Durrence, who's lived there his entire life. We'll spend three days exploring both the man-made and natural splendors of Savannah, and one day in Charleston for a taste of it as well.

This is a small group trip, limited to six clients, myself and a second instructor, for eight people, total. We'll use two vehicles, which means everyone will have their own door and plenty of room. The trip starts and ends in Savannah, and we'll



take care of getting you from the airport as well as all local transportation. There will be plenty of walking, sometimes on uneven pavement or trails, as we explore the cities as well as nearby nature areas and the beach. Sunrise at this time of year is around 6:45am and sunset around 6:30pm.



The price is \$2300/person. That includes transportation to and from the Savannah airport, all local travel during our four days of photography, entry fees as well as planning and instruction and critiques (as requested). It does not include flights to/from Savannah, meals, or lodging (although I have reserved a block of rooms for us right in the heart of Savannah, you'll pay for that when you get there). Payment details for the trip are at the bottom of this note.

Here's the itinerary (dates are fixed, but what we do at what exact times may shift based on weather or other changing conditions):

Sunday, March 2, 2024

Plan to arrive at the airport (SAV) by mid-afternoon (no later than 4pm). After getting everyone from the airport, we'll have a welcome

reception at Bill and Barbara's home before going to dinner together. We'll spend all five nights at one hotel, the Planters Inn on Reynolds Square (about \$170/night plus tax), right in the heart of Savannah. Rooms are already booked, you don't need to do anything about that.

Monday, March 3

We'll start early with a sunrise shoot along Bluff Drive (Isle of Hope is an exurb of Savannah, taking its name from being an evacuation place during the Yellow Fever epidemic). It's a curving road along the intercoastal waterway/Skidaway River with a marina on one side of the road where the sun will come up, and a variety of beautiful homes on the other. Breakfast nearby. From there we'll come back to downtown Savannah for a walking tour until lunchtime.



In the afternoon we'll visit the Savannah Wildlife Refuge, which is home to many species of birds as well as alligators.



Returning to Savannah in time for sunset, we'll see a little more of town, before heading over to Plant Riverside for dinner and some night photography.

Tuesday, March 4

Another early morning as we drive to Tybee Island for sunrise around the lighthouse. Afterwards we'll have breakfast at a café there, then continue our exploration visiting the Strand before heading to Fort Pulaski. For lunch we'll stop at a local crab shack, then head to Bonaventure Cemetery. After that we'll return to the hotel for a late-afternoon break (and dinner on your own) before heading out for our night shoot.



Photo by Bill Durrence



Photo by Reed Hoffmann



Photo by Bill Durrence

Wednesday, March 5

Another early morning, this time leaving before sunrise for Charleston, so we can get there in time to work the early light. After lunch we'll visit Magnolia plantation before working our way back to Savannah. Dinner on your own, then an optional night shoot will be offered.

Thursday, March 6

Today you've earned a sleep-in morning! Well, at least more sleep than the first three days. This day will begin with a visit to one of the historic old homes to photograph someone in period dress. We'll spend the rest



Photo by Reed Hoffmann

of the morning in the old part of Savannah before taking a break for lunch. In the afternoon we'll visit the Georgia State Railroad Museum before heading to Skidaway Island State Park to wander its marshes and estuaries. Our final night's dinner will be at the food trucks at Starland Yard, a newer, "cool" part of the city created out of stacked cargo containers. Return to the hotel, then a short evening photo walk visiting one or two of the city's squares before finishing at Bill's house for farewell cocktails.

Friday, March 7

With the trip over, we'll take you back to the Savannah airport for flights home. Don't book any flights before 10am (or if you do, or plan on a much later flight, please make your own travel arrangements to get to the airport). Of course, if you'd like to stay a few more days, you're welcome to do that as well.



Photo by Bill Durrence

Level of difficulty: Moderate. There will be plenty of walking, sometimes on uneven surfaces (cobblestones, trails, boardwalks, sand...).

Weather: Expect a high around 70 in the daytime and down to around 50 overnight. Savannah averages about 3-inches of rain in March, so there's a good chance we'll have some.

All clients must sign an assumption of risk form to go on the trip:
(https://reedhoffmann.com/PARTICIPANT_AGREEMENT.pdf)



Photo by Bill Durrence

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Here's how to register and pay:

To register, simply call or email me to confirm that there's a spot available for you. After that, I'll let you know when it's time to send me your deposit (\$800) and book travel. The deposit is fully refundable until October 15 in case you have to cancel. After that it's refundable if you or I can find someone to take your spot.

The balance, \$1500, is due January 5, 2024. After that, if you have to cancel, I can refund all your money if either you or I can find someone to take your spot. If you're worried that you might have to cancel, I'd suggest looking into trip insurance.

You can pay via PayPal or Venmo, as a “friend” (otherwise I need to add a 3% surcharge to make up for their fees). You can also send a check to me at:

My address is: Reed Hoffmann
 13169 Carter Street
 Overland Park, KS 66213

Questions? Let me know – Reed

