

Southern Comfort

Channel your inner southern belle and head down to Savannah, a quirky old city that's rich in character and charm

BY LISA HORTEN

Easy to get to, but worlds away, Savannah is located on Georgia's Atlantic coast and caters to history buffs, foodies and art aficionados alike. After dark, it's known as the "Most Haunted City in America," so if a friendly ghost happens to join you on your honeymoon, don't say we didn't warn you.

STAY: Score a serious room with a view at the five-story River Street Inn, which overlooks—you guessed it—the Savannah River. The Inn's 86 guest rooms all feature unique, traditional décor—think four-poster beds, hardwood floors, and Oriental rugs. Be sure to request a room with a French balcony, the perfect place to end the day overlooking the river.

For a true taste of old Savannah style, the Mansion on Forsyth Park is housed in a restored Victorian mansion in the heart of the Historic District. Each guest room merges historic charm and refinement with modern amenities. Take a break from sightseeing to visit the Poseidon Spa and the

Marble Garden Pool, a great spot for catching some rays.

EXPLORE: With its antebellum architecture, cobblestone streets and romantic oaks draped in Spanish moss,

Savannah's the perfect kind of city to explore on foot. You'll want to start out in the Historic District, home to the city's 22 famous squares.

Artsy types: check out the Telfair Museum of Art (the oldest art museum in the South) and the Savannah College of Art and Design's Museum of Art. Then shop West Broughton Street's great boutiques like The Paris Market & Brocante for vintage house wares and jewelry, and the Savannah Bee Company for local honey, tea and beeswax-based products.

For some fun in the sun on your Savannah getaway, head to Tybee Island. Just a 20-minute drive from Savannah's Historic District, the low-key barrier island beach offers plenty of eco adventures (think kayaking, dolphin tours and deep sea fishing), and is home to Georgia's oldest and tallest lighthouse.

EAT: Y'all have got to head down to The Lady & Sons, Paula Deen's West Congress Street eatery. You'll have no problem finding the place with its line down the block. They don't take reservations, but the shrimp and grits are well worth the wait!

Hit up the swanky Local 11 Ten, housed in a restored 1950s-era downtown bank, which specializes in local and seasonal ingredients and southern classic cuisine. Or, the Masada Cafe, which serves up hearty buffet of soul-food favorites. The fried chicken has gained high acclaim from both food critics and locals—yum!

SIP: Toast the supernatural on Savannah's famed Haunted Pub Crawl as entertaining and in-the-know tour guides lead you through the city's spookiest pubs and taverns.



River Street Inn—watch out for ghosts!

TIDBITS

BRING IT WITH YOU. Before visiting Savannah, pick up a copy of John Berendt's *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, which spent more than five years on the *New York Times* bestseller list. The thrilling murder mystery is a whole lot more fun than reading a visitor's guide!

LIGHTS, CAMERA, SAVANNAH. *Forrest Gump*, *The Legend of Bagger Vance* and the original *Cape Fear* are just a few of the big-screen hits filmed in Savannah.

LUCK 'O THE IRISH. Savannah's Saint Patrick's Day celebration is the oldest and one of the largest in the country. Some 500,000 visitors migrate to Savannah every year on March 17...avoid the date if you're looking for peace and quiet!



Catch a sunset stroll on the boardwalk by the Savannah River.

CHECK IT OUT:

River Street Inn, riverstreetinn.com
Mansion on Forsyth Park, mansiononforythpark.com
The Lady & Sons, ladyandsons.com
Local 11 Ten, local11ten.com
Haunted Pub Crawl, ghostsavannah.com
Savannah Visitors Guide, savannahvisit.com
Telfair Museum of Art, telfair.org
Savannah College of Art and Design, scad.edu
The Paris Market & Brocante, theparismarket.com
Savannah Bee Company, savannahbee.com
The Mercer Williams House Museum, mercerhouse.com
Tybee Island, tybeeisland.com



The historic Mansion on Forsyth Park.



Romantic hidden gardens galore!



Break from sightseeing and kick back at the Mansion on Forsyth Park's courtyard.

shop.getmarried.com