

CHARMING AND HISTORIC – CHARLESTON, SAVANNAH & ST. SIMONS ISLAND

Focus: John Wesley and Methodism

DAY ONE

- Arrive Jacksonville, FL (JAX) and meet your Group Tour Company escort/guide and motorcoach; both of which will be for your exclusive use the next eight days
- Drive to St. Simons Island, Georgia (*approximately 1 ¼ hours/65 miles*)
- Check in suggested hotel: **Epworth By The Sea** (*Epworth By The Sea is a Methodist Retreat Center overlooking the Frederica River on St. Simons Island. Accommodations available are motel style on two floors with the upper floor accessed by an elevator. Cafeteria – style meals are part of the plan and the center will be glad to box up lunches if necessary.*)
- Sightseeing as time allows
- Dinner at the center's cafeteria

[dinner included]

DAY TWO

- Breakfast buffet at retreat center
- Hotel check out
- Fort Frederica National Monument begun by General James Oglethorpe, the founder of Savannah, in 1736 it is perhaps best known for the site of the 1742 Battle of Bloody Marsh that kept the Colony of Georgia in British rule
- Arthur J. Moore Methodist Museum displays an assortment of Methodist artifacts, a nativity collection and exhibits on the Island's history, also part of the Epworth-by-the-Sea Methodist Center
- Lunch back at Epworth By the Sea
- Explore further Methodist sites with a St. Simons guide
- Drive to Charleston (*driving time 3 ½ hours/181 miles*)
- Check in suggested hotel: **The Mills House Hotel**
- Dinner Hyman's Seafood
- Ghost walking tour

[breakfast, lunch and dinner included]

DAY THREE

- Breakfast buffet at the hotel
- Drayton Hall this Georgian-Palladian style mansion remained in the Drayton family for seven generations; never modernized the house is in its original condition and is interpreted interestingly and thoroughly
- Box lunch to enjoy on plantation grounds
- Magnolia Plantation and Gardens a complete plantation experience
- Evening free to relax in the hotel or downtown Charleston
- Dinner at own expense

[breakfast and box lunch included]

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DAY FOUR

- Breakfast buffet at the hotel
- Tour Charleston's Historic District –
- Nathaniel Russell House this 1808 Federal house has a free flying cantilevered staircase and a fine collection of Charlestown made furniture
- St. Michael's Episcopal Church the oldest church building in the city
- View the homes along the Battery, 18th Century Rainbow Row and other points of interest including sites important to early Methodism
- Lunch at own expense surrounding the Old City Market with time to shop and browse
- St. Philips Episcopal Church where George Whitefield preached
- Old Exchange and Provost Dungeon built by the British as an Exchange and Customs House and later used to imprison Patriots during the Revolution
- Old Bethel Methodist Church where Francis Asbury preached
- Dinner at own expense

[breakfast included]

DAY FIVE

- Breakfast buffet at the hotel
- Hotel check out
- Fort Sumter National Historic Monument this brick fortification is most famous for the opening shots of the Civil War
- Free time at your own leisure or other places of interest
- Lunch at own expense
- Afternoon Depart Charleston, South Carolina (*approximately 2 ½ hours/181 miles*)
- Check in suggested hotel: **Inn at Ellis Square**
- Dinner, The Pirates' House
- "Midnight in the Garden of Good & Evil" and Introduction to Savannah walking tour

[breakfast and dinner included]

DAY SIX

- Breakfast buffet at the hotel
- Touring with visits to the Bethesda Orphanage Chapel begun by George Whitefield; view the Back River the inspiration for hometown songwriter, Johnny Mercer's "Moon River;" Wormsloe Plantation State Park Museum through the 1.5 oak lined avenue see the remains of the fortified mid-1700s house established by one of the original colonists, Noble Jones and a visit to Bonaventure Cemetery well known for its sculpture and architecture
- Lunch at Johnny Harris, Restaurant & BBQ Sauce Company, Savannah's Oldest Restaurant
- Continue touring with balance of afternoon to explore Savannah on your own
- Dinner at own expense in historic district

[breakfast and lunch included]

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DAY SEVEN

- Breakfast buffet at the hotel
- Historic Savannah including John Wesley statue at Reynolds Square a much photographed statue erected in 1969 in a public square said to be visited by spirits from a malaria outbreak and Cathedral of St. John the Baptist one of the largest cathedrals in the South
- Tour Monumental United Methodist Church, if desired the monument to John Wesley built with contributions from all over the world; also the home of the Wesley Window and other artwork celebrating Methodism's founders
- Lunch at own expense along Factors Walk, along the River Street, with time to explore the shops
- Telfair Academy of Arts and Sciences along with the Owens – Thomas House Museum this home reflects Savannah's golden age
- Dinner, Lady and Sons

[breakfast and dinner included]

DAY EIGHT

- Breakfast buffet at the hotel, followed by check out
- Additional sightseeing or free time as departure flight allows
- Drive to Jacksonville, FL (JAX) for you departure flight home

[breakfast included]

Wesley Notes: General James Oglethorpe, the philanthropist, reformer and planner of Savannah invited John Wesley to come to the Colony of Georgia to be its chaplain in 1735, just two years after the city's founding. John Wesley was accompanied by his brother, Charles, who was to serve as Oglethorpe's private secretary. Other members of the Oxford Holy Club also made the trip, but it was a group of Moravian Christians that had a deep impact on John. Both brothers had mixed experiences in Georgia. John returned to England in late 1737 discouraged and uncertain about his future. The questions that he had for himself would bring him to a meeting at Aldersgate Church in May 1738, where he experienced a conversion, his "heart strangely warmed," to a life of purpose and the beginnings of a new church.