

Mid-Atlantic Tours & Receptive Services

The Leader in Tours to our Nation's Capital and the Mid-Atlantic Region

MARS

800-769-5912

Sample Tour

Holidays in Charleston & Savannah Available November through mid-December 4 nights – 5 days

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Each holiday season (late November to mid-December) some of the events and attractions listed in this sample tour are date specific. Please contact your travel expert at MARS for travel dates and up-to-date information about this spectacular tour.



Visit our *On-Line Tour Catalogue* at www.takeafuntrip.com

Specializing in Wholesale Custom Group Tours

Day One

- Arrive in **Savannah, GA** Enjoy **free time** and **lunch on own** at the **City Market in Downtown Savannah**. Since the early 1700's, City Market has been the commercial and social center of historic Savannah. Located on the original site of the market used by farmers and traders of all kinds to sell their goods and wares, City Market offers the best of what is old and what is new in Savannah. Today, Savannah's City Market comprises a four-block area of restored warehouses and shop fronts adjacent to Ellis Square. This charming, open air-marketplace has a wealth of things to do in Savannah whether you come for the entertainment, to shop, dine or just rest your weary feet.

Downtown will be the site of the Holiday Frolic Event. Imagine Broughton Street filled with people enjoying the holiday sights and sounds:

- **A snow area for playing in Reynolds Square.**
 - **A skating rink on Broughton Street**
 - **Shopping in an elegant marketplace with great downtown shops and local artisans**
 - **Holiday movies at The Lucas Theatre**
 - **Holiday movies outside on the wall of Il Pasticcio at night**
 - **Live entertainment including music and dance performances**
 - **Wine and Shop under the stars**
 - Check in to the **Hampton Inn & Suites or similar. Baggage handling is included.**
 - **Enjoy dinner this evening at our local restaurant.** Dinner this evening will be a **Southern Plantation Buffet.**
 - **Enjoy the Holly Jolly Trolley Tour this evening. Conductor “elves” are delighted to entertain and amuse guests with tales of favorite Holiday Traditions. Enjoy caroling from the Trolley as you pass by festively decorated historic homes and city squares. The tour includes 2 stops; the historic Isaiah Davenport House and Savannah’s Candy Kitchen. At the Davenport House, guests are transported back to the 1820’s to get a glimpse at a typical 19th century family holiday. Cookies and cider served in the garden before re-boarding the trolley. Just before the evening’s end, a stop at the Savannah Candy Kitchen features a FREE sample, PLUS an exclusive discount for all Holly Jolly passengers. Enjoy surprise guest appearances nightly!**
- Meals: D

Day Two

- Enjoy a **breakfast** at the hotel this morning
 - **Celebrate the Holidays with the Gordons:** Beautifully decorated for the holidays, explore Victorian holiday customs at the Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace, home of the founder of the Girl Scouts. The table is set for Christmas dinner, the stockings are ready in Mama’s bedroom and the vintage “Game of Merry Christmas” is out for all to see.
 - Enjoy **free time and lunch on own** in the **Riverfront Plaza** and experience the magic of **River Street**, where Georgia was first founded in 1733. Walk along historic cobblestone streets that were once the ballast stones in mighty sailing ships. Explore the many delightful shops that line the street and tempt you with bargains from all over the world. Dine in style in restaurants that once were "King Cotton" warehouses in the 1800's.
 - Tour the **Owens-Thomas House** is considered by architectural historians to be one of the finest examples of English Regency architecture in America. Inspired by classical antiquity, this style of architecture takes its name from England’s King George IV, who ruled as Prince Regent from 1811 to 1820. The house was designed by the young English architect William Jay (1792-1837), one of the first professionally-trained architects practicing in the United States. The elegant residence was built from 1816-1819 for cotton merchant and banker Richard Richardson and his wife Francis Bolton. Mr. Richardson’s brother-in-law was married to Ann Jay, the architect’s sister. A National Historic Landmark, the stately former residence is now a historic house museum. It boasts a decorative arts collection comprised primarily of Owens family furnishings, along with American and European objects dating from 1750-1830. The site also includes a beautiful English-inspired parterre garden and an original carriage house—which contains one of the earliest intact urban slave quarters in the South. **This historic home will be traditionally decorated.**
 - Enjoy **dinner** in an 1850’s King Cotton Warehouse.
 - See **A Christmas Tradition** at the **Historic Savannah Theatre** this evening. This show brings you holiday glitz and glitter with a 2-hour performance. The theatre is transformed into a holiday perfect picture, sharing memories of the Christmas standards that you know and love. Sprinkle in a little comedy and audience participation for the greatest event of the season.
- Meals: B, D

Day Three

- Enjoy a **breakfast** at the hotel this morning prior to checking out. **Baggage handling is included.**
- Arrive in Charleston, SC. **Did you know? In 1825, Mexican Ambassador and Charleston native, Joel Roberts Poinsett found a pulchritudinous red flowering plant while wandering on a mountain trail in rural Mexico. He was so taken with the flower that he collected a few specimens to take home to his Charleston greenhouse. In 1832, Dr. Poinsett began to successfully propagate the plant species in America. The Poinsettia became synonymous with Christmas and it is now known as the Flor de Noche Buena" or "Flower of the Beautiful Night (Christmas Eve)." Robert Buist, a famed Scottish gardener and taxonomist named the plant after learning about it from Dr. Poinsett in the mid 1830's.**
- Tour **The Joseph Manigault House. Each year, the Garden Club of Charleston uses this magnificent house as a backdrop for their creative arrangements, using only live plant materials that would have been available in the Lowcountry during the 19th century.** Visitors may view the holiday decorations as part of the regular public tour fee and schedule. **Monday-Saturday 10-5, Sunday 1-5.**
- **Enjoy lunch on your own at City Market.** There are a total of four buildings spanning from Meeting Street to East Bay Street. An assortment of wares is sold by hundreds of vendors. Sweet grass basket weavers can be seen in every building, along with, local artists, jewelry, tapestry, souvenirs, church dolls, afghans, rugs, rice, beans and sauces, local candies and cookies and much more.
- After lunch enjoy free time to shop and explore Historic Charleston.
- **Enjoy a Horse Drawn Carriage Ride** through historic **Charleston, South Carolina.** Rich in over 300 years of history, Charleston is one of the most beautifully preserved historic and architectural treasures in the nation. Significant and lovely structures, beautiful gardens, and centuries-old homes grace the narrow streets. Church bells toll the hour as history unfolds around each and every corner.
- **Enjoy dinner included in Downtown Charleston.**
- Celebrate the holiday season with a special **andlelight tour of the Edmondston-Alston House**, one of the first dwellings built on Charleston's High Battery. The Christmas Candlelight Tours will be offered on the first two Fridays in December from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. and will feature costumed interpreters. The historic Edmondston-Alston House will be dressed for the holidays much as it would have been in the 1860s. Living historians in period clothing will tell the story of Charleston's last opulent Christmas before the start of the Civil War, and will share the different Christmas traditions of the day.
Meals: B, D

Day Four

- Enjoy **breakfast** this morning at the hotel.
- Visit **Boone Hall Plantation**, touted as "a must see stop on any trip to Charleston, SC" by NBC *Daytime*. Start by walking down the Avenue of Oaks, one of the most spectacular entrances anywhere in the world. See why Boone Hall is "America's Most Photographed Plantation." Experience live presentations you won't find on any other plantation in the Area. Explore the Gullah Culture, visit our new Black History in America exhibit on display in 9 original slave cabins, tour the Plantation Home, and more. Come enjoy the setting in which many television shows and movies have been filmed.
As holiday time rolls through these giant oaks, Boone Hall Plantation Christmas comes alive with festivities, decorations, and good ole southern holiday hospitality that is only befitting America's Most Photographed plantation. The Plantation Mansion and grounds are decorated with much of what the holidays are all about. But there's something special about this plantation home's holiday attire. Yes...there's plenty of beautiful Christmas trees in every room of the plantation's main floor...adorned in every size and

shape of Christmas ornaments and decorations. But if you look closely, you will see some things that are very unique about the decorations that are distributed all around.

- Visit **Middleton Place Plantation**, one of the oldest and finest landscaped gardens in America. It is a National Historic Landmark and a carefully preserved 18th-century plantation that has survived revolution, Civil War, and earthquake. It was the home of many generations of Middletons, beginning with Henry Middleton, President of the First Continental Congress. Sweeping views, intimate garden rooms, and ornamental waters highlight the garden.
- Enjoy a **lowcountry lunch buffet** today at the **Pavilion at Middleton Place**.
- Arrive at **Drayton Hall**, c.1738, America's oldest preserved plantation house open to the public. Located in the Ashley River historic district, the 125-acre site is surrounded by aged oak trees. Offering focus tours on architecture, African-American history, preservation, women's history, and the American Revolution and Civil War.
- **See Ann Caldwell & The Magnolia Singers**. One of the longest-running performances of its kind in the Lowcountry, this popular annual concert has become a Charleston tradition as it offers a rare opportunity for visitors to gather at the oldest unrestored plantation house in America and experience music that could have been heard centuries ago in the surrounding fields and praise houses. These very special concerts include **candlelight tours of the house** as well as **wine/hors d'oeuvres followed by a concert in the house with Ann Caldwell and the Magnolia Singers**.
- Arrive at the **Holiday Festival of Lights!** Magic is the discovery of the extraordinary, a moment when everything else is forgotten, and when wonderment is shared. Magic embraces and connects us. **Your journey begins with a 3-mile drive through millions of sparkling lights and hundreds of light displays**. Then stretch your legs and your imagination at **Santa's Village & Winter Wonderland**. When magic happens, lasting memories are made.
 - **The train depot should be your first stop at Santa's Village**. Hop aboard the **CCPRC Railroad** and travel through the Enchanted Forest for an intimate view of the lights! The train runs nightly and departs every 20 minutes. **Rides are approximately 12 minutes. Tickets are approximately \$3 per person and can be purchased at the boarding area.**
 - **Santa's Attic and The Incredible Gift Shoppe** offer handcrafted holiday gifts including our official 24-carat gold collector series ornaments. Shop for stocking stuffers, holiday decorations, personalized ornaments, and more!
 - Spoil your sweet tooth at **Santa's Sweet Shoppe** where the aroma of specialty coffees, candy, and fresh baked temptations of fudge and Christmas cookies fill the air.

Meals: B, L, D

Day Five

- Enjoy **breakfast** at the hotel this morning prior to checking out. **Baggage handling is included**.
- **Visit** the stately **Magnolia Plantation**, the oldest major public garden in America; it is also America's oldest man-made attraction, having been open to the public annually since the late 1860s.
 - Dating from 1760, the **Magnolia Plantation House** is the third structure to grace the Plantation grounds. After the second house was burned by General Sherman's troops during the Civil War, this home was dismantled and brought by barge on the Ashley River from nearby Summerville, South Carolina, after the war and erected on the burned-out ground floor walls of the second house. The present living and dining areas as well as the distinctive Victorian water tower were added in the late 1800s.
 - The **Nature Train** is a 45-minute tram tour of the Plantation's diverse landscapes - lakes, woodlands, marshes, and rivers - while guides describe plantation history and wildlife. As the tour travels beyond Magnolia's historic gardens and lawns, guides interpret the extensive flora and fauna. Alligators, turtles, herons, egrets, and other native animals are often viewed in abundance.

- The **Gardens of Magnolia Plantation** are America's oldest garden spanning three centuries. See the Long White Bridge, The Barbados Tropical Garden, The Horticultural Maze, and the Biblical Garden.

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- **Enjoy the full bloom of America's most extensive outdoor camellia display. The plantation house is decorated for the season**

Depart for home.

Meals: B

From \$620.00* Per Person Double Occupancy

Minimum 35. Numbers below subject to price increase.

35 paid +1 comp in double occupancy or higher.

**Price quoted based on November – December 2011.*

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Prices are Net, Non-Commissionable.

Based on availability and pricing at time of reservations.

All proposals are subject to change.

Rates may be adjusted based on fuel surcharges, tax change(s), and/or currency exchange rate changes(s).

Tour includes: 4 nights accommodations, baggage handling, 4 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 3 dinners, admissions and guide service as stated in the itinerary, taxes and gratuity, except gratuity is not included for guide service.

All itineraries are subject to change. Every attempt will be made to include all sites mentioned within this itinerary. At times, circumstances beyond our control such as lines, traffic, closures, weather and late arrivals can severely restrict timing and cause items to be excluded. All timing, except scheduled appointments, is approximate. It is strongly suggested that the timed itinerary be utilized by the driver, escort, and/or group leader and guide only. We suggest that more general itineraries be supplied to the tour participants. Mid Atlantic assumes no liability for itinerary exclusions, nor guarantees that all sites be visited within the itinerary.

Note: At times Restaurant menus may change at the discretion of the Restaurant Management. These circumstances are beyond the control of Mid-Atlantic Receptive Services. Mid-Atlantic will notify the client of any changes that occur.

Sample Charleston and Savannah Holiday 4N/5D JW



This delightful holiday tour to Savannah & Charleston is also available for 3 nights & 4 days: Contact us for tour dates, a detailed itinerary, and prices.

CLICK HERE to contact us



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